フリージア 2

松本次郎

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敵討ち執行代理人になった叶ヒロシに強敵が現る。

ヒロシと同じ"擬態"の技を使う警護人"幽霊"と

老練な死神を相手に、孤独な戦いが始まった…

IKKI COMIX
小学館
IKKI82

IKKICOMIX

フリージア 2

松本次郎

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HAWKS
OMANGA

FREESIA

フリージア

松本次郎 2

JIRO MATSUMOTO

EDITING
GATSU
ZYPH

IKKICOMIX

SCANNING
GATSU

TRANSLATOR: ZZLED

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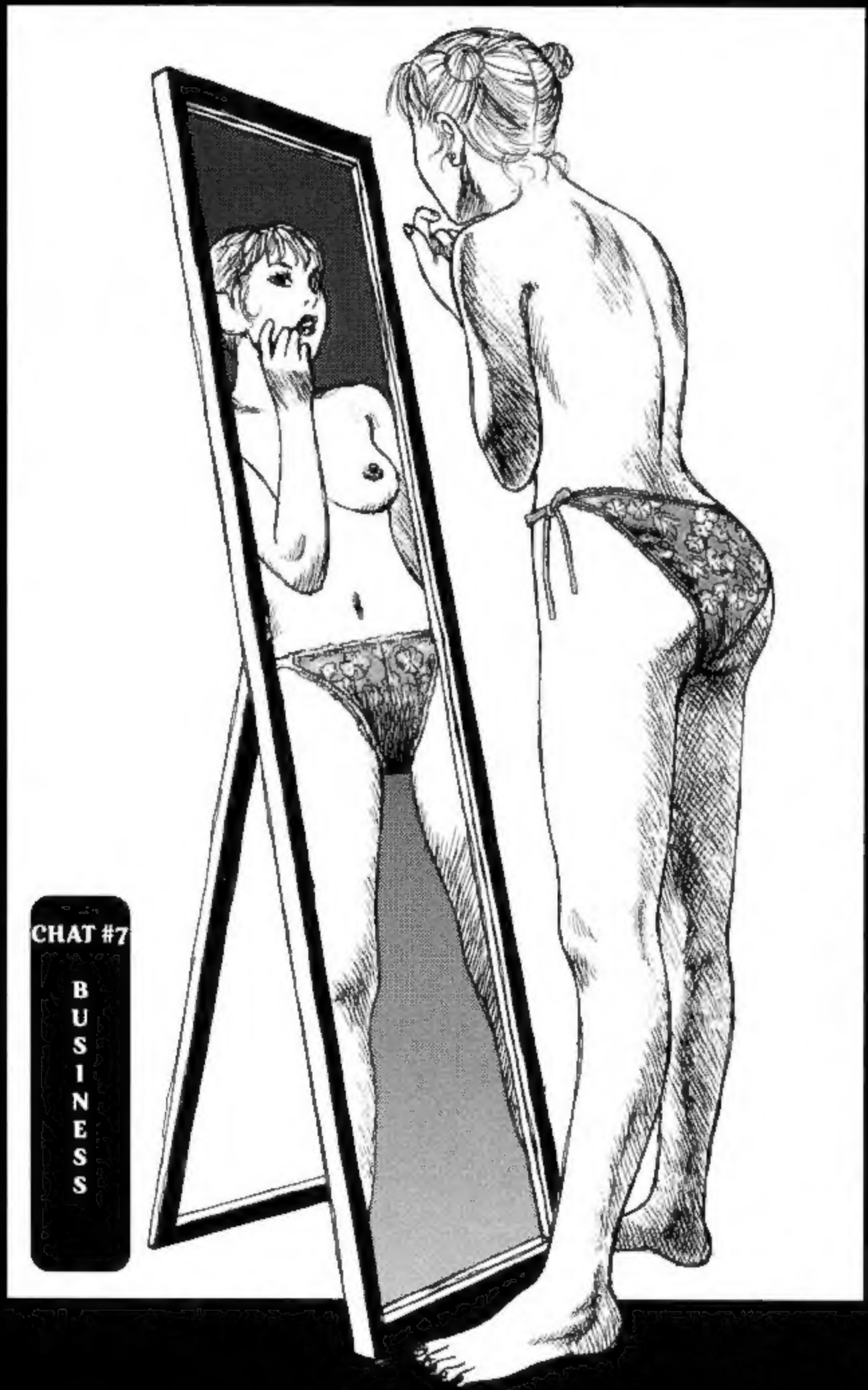
FREESIA 2 JIRO MATSUMOTO

This work is fiction. There is no connection whatsoever to real people, organizations, or incidents.


CHAT #7
BUSINESS

YOU'RE ...
FROM THAT TIME ...
KANO-KUN.
SO YOU REMEM-BER?

I'M A BIT...
DISAP-POINTED.
I WENT TO ALL THIS TROUBLE ...
BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE A TRIVIAL MATTER.
IT'S PRETTY SERIOUS FOR A GIRL, YOU KNOW.
WELL, IT FELT LIKE THAT BACK THEN, AT LEAST.
IT DOESN'T INTER-EST ME.
WHAT DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH ME?
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO GET INVOLVED IN OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES LIKE THIS.
YOU'RE AN ADULT, RIGHT?

I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.
THERE'S ONE MORE THING ...
I HATE GETTING INVOLVED IN OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES AS WELL.
WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME.
WHAT?
I GET THE FEELING THAT IT WASN'T STRICTLY BUSINESS.
WHY DID YOU PICK ME?
YOU'RE ...
HEH HEH ...
4

ME.
JUST LIKE ...
IT WAS JUST MY INTU-ITION...
THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT ...
ME?
LIKE YOU?

NUMBER ONE
一番

EVERY HUMAN BEING IS BORN...
WITH THE RIGHT TO LIVE AND SEEK HAPPINESS.

DO ALL OF YOU...
HAVE SOMEONE WHO'LL BE YOUR STRENGTH WHEN YOU'RE SAD OR SUFFERING?

CRASH
IF SOMEONE TAKES AWAY THAT RIGHT...
BUT IF...
OUR SKILLED AND EXPERI-ENCED STAFF CAN BECOME YOUR STRENGTH.
GATHER YOUR COURAGE AND COME TALK TO US.
WAIL
WAIL
WISHES FOR EVERYONE TO LIVE IN A PEACEFUL SOCIETY.
WAH
Toll Free Number
0120-XXXXXX
Please Call!
THE KATSUMI PROXY VENGEANCE OFFICE...
BEEP

TO BUILD CONFI-DENCE!
MY ADVER-TISING FIRM DEVOTED ALL OUR ENERGY INTO MAKING THIS COM-MERCIAL
WHAT DID YOU THINK ?
WELL ?
SAMPLE I
WHO THE HELL WAS THAT WOMAN, ANYWAY?
I DON'T REALLY GET IT.
NOBODY WANTS THAT, IDIOT.
THAT'S JUST LAME
WHAT THE HELL WAS ALL THAT ABOUT LIVING IN A PEACE-FUL SOCIETY ?
WE SHOULD USE THIS, CHIEF! IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO GO!
UH HUH . .
I WAS DEEPLY MOVED !
IT WAS WONDER-FUL!!

PUFF
I DON'T REALLY CARE ...
IT'S ALL RIGHT, I GUESS.
HOW WAS IT, HIGUCHI?
WHAT'S IMPORTANT HERE IS HOW WOMEN RECEIVE IT.
.....
HE'S HARDLY EVER LATE...
HUH? COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE'S KANO-SAN?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
HMM.. WELL... I SUPPOSE WE'LL GO WITH THIS...
THUD

I'VE ...
OVER-SLEPT ...
AHH
AHH...
AHH ...
CLICK
THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU, HIROSHI ...
HEH... HEH HEH...
AHH ...
SQUELCH
SQUELCH
I OVER-SLEPT.
SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE LEFT FOR WORK?
YOU'RE STILL HERE, HIROSHI ?

BEEEEEP
AHH...
BREAK-FAST IS IMPOR-TANT FOR STAYING HEALTHY.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
IT'S FINE. I'LL MAKE IT MYSELF
AHH ...
D-- DO YOU WANT BREAK-FAST? AHH...
SQUELCH SQUELCH SQUELCH
SNAP
THWAP THWAP THWAP
SIP SIP SIP
AHH-- I'M COMING ... I'M COMING!
NEXT ON THE NEWS.
GAHH ...
PHEW ...
HAHH ...

HAVE COME TOGETHER TO HOLD A MEMORIAL SERVICE.
THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ATTACKED IN A BOMBING RAID THE OTHER DAY.
!
MANY WOMEN BROKE DOWN AND CRIED..
TO OFFER PRAYERS AND FLOWERS TO THE VICTIMS, FOR THEIR HAPPINESS IN THE NEXT WORLD
TODAY, PEOPLE CONTINUED TO LINE UP IN ROWS...
TO REMEMBER THE DEAD..
AND WE HAVE TO WIN THIS WAR..
I CAN'T TAKE IT...
BUT WE HAVE TO SURMOUNT THIS ORDEAL.
.....
THERE WAS SADNESS AND HATRED THAT COULDN'T BE PUT INTO WORDS
HMM ...
WHAT DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU WENT TO THE SCENE?
YES?
HIROSE-SAN, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

SPURT
I CAN'T HOLD BACK MY TEARS ANYMORE !
カチャ
ガチャ
CLICK CLICK

HUH? WHO ARE THEY?
IT'S A MILITIA GROUP.
THEY'RE EXPECTING URBAN WARFARE, SO THEY'VE STARTED TRAINING FOR IT.
AWESOME! REAL GUNS!
I'VE BEEN SOME-WHAT OFF BALANCE.
AFTER THAT DAY WITH HIGUCHI...
I NEED TO TALK WITH HER AGAIN..
EVEN THOUGH I SOLVED ONE MYSTERY ...
I'VE BEEN THINKING TOO MUCH.
I HOPE IT'S JUST THAT...
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO MEET WITH HER TODAY
I'LL TAKE THE OTHER ROUTE TODAY.

!
HEY.
THUD
UGH!
PUNCH

YOU GOTTA PAY ME TO PASS THROUGH HERE, YOU BASTARD !
CLINK
WAIT, YOU BASTARD !
THUNK
CRASH

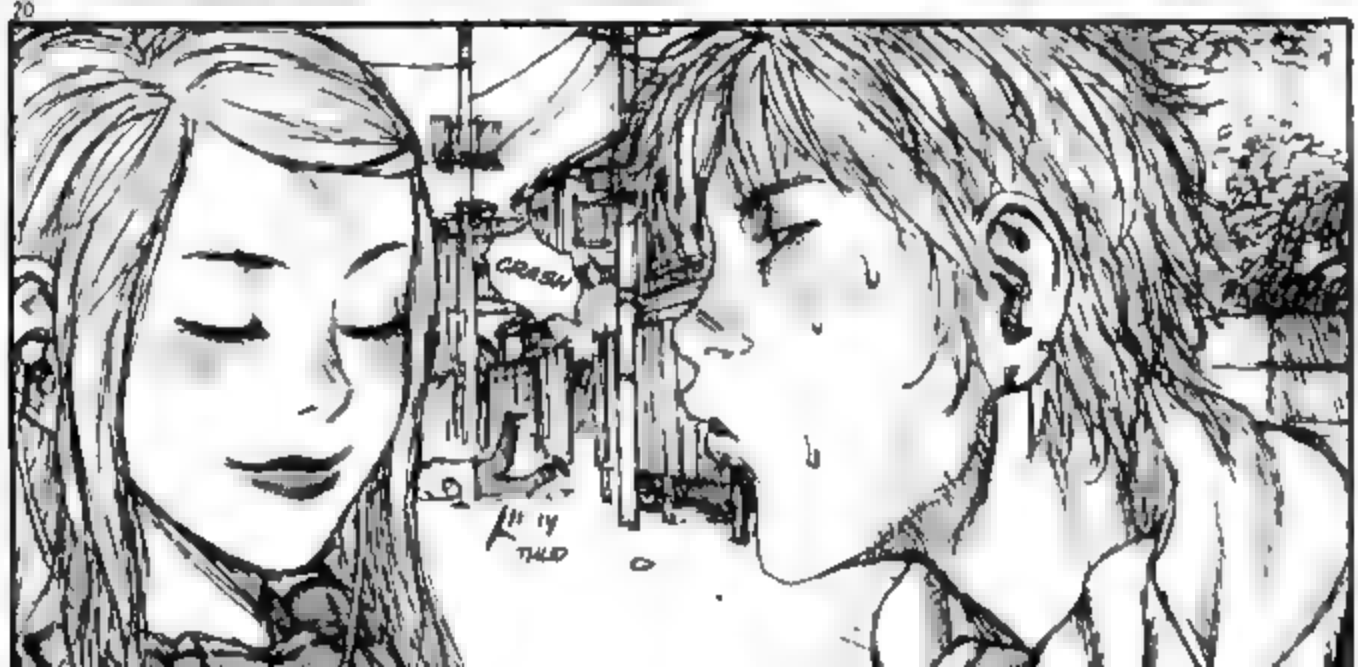
I'LL KILL YOU, YOU BAS-TARD !!
UGH ...
SPURT
SLIDE
CREAK

AHHHH!!
AHHHH!!
DRIP
AHHH!
AHHH!
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
THUD
HOW DID YOU DO IT?
CLINK
ANSWER ME.
HOW DID YOU GET THAT CLOSE WITHOUT ME NOTICING?

.....
FORGIVE ME, YOU BASTARD
I'M SORRY, YOU BASTARD.
IT'S NOT THAT HE ESCAPED MY NOTICE...
NO.
MY SENSES HAVE DULLED...
WOOOOO
I JUST COULDN'T REACT.
IT'S NOT SIMPLY THAT I'VE BEEN THINKING TOO MUCH...

SO YOU'VE BEEN SKIPPING SCHOOL MAKE THIS...
YOU MADE IT ALL BY YOURSELF?
THAT'S AMAZING, YOSHI-KUN!
AHH! NO! STOP IT, YUKIKO! IT'S EMBARRASSING!
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
PLEASE!
.....
THE FEELINGS I WANT TO OFFER TO THE ONE I LOVE...
NO... WELL ... IT'S ABOUT ...
UMM ...
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN ASK...
CLICK

TCHAK TCHAK TCHAK
RIDING YOUR BICYCLE- YOU WERE LIKE A SHADOW- AND I WANTED A RIDE-
WAITING FOR YOU BENEATH THE SCHOOL BUILDING- JUST SUMMER-
TCHAK TCHAK
IT'S LIKE 'YUZU'.
AHH, IT'S GOOD.
THUMP
THUMP
I'VE COME TO STEAL YOUR HEART- HAPPI- NESS-
THUMP
YUKIKO ...
I CAN'T- DO ANY- THING BUT SING-
SOMEDAY WE CAN MEET- TOMOR- ROW TOGETHER -


20
CRASH
THUD

THAT YOU MIGHT NOT COME ANYMORE
I WAS WORRIED ...
YOU'RE LATE, KANO-KUN. THE MEETING ALREADY STARTED.
OH!
I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
.....
WHY WOULD I STOP COMING ?
COMING TO WORK LATE.
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU, KANO-KUN...

HAS CHANGED ... ISN'T IT?
IT'S ALMOST LIKE SOME-THING INSIDE YOU...
NO.
.....
22
SHUT THE HELL UP!
EH?
FUNNY YOU SHOULD SAY THAT, MIZOGUCHI, CONSIDERING THAT YOU'RE LATE ALMOST EVERY OTHER DAY.
THAT YOU CAN COME TO WORK IN THE AFTER-NOON?
OH, KANO! SO NOW YOU'RE SO HIGH AND MIGHTY ...

WHAT IS IT?
ANYHOW, THERE'S BEEN A LITTLE SCANDAL
THEY'RE HOLDING AN INQUIRY.
THIS IS A MEETING OF THE DIET.
STOP PUTTING ON AIRS, OLD MAN.
BEEP
IT MIGHT BE OUT IN THE NEWS ALREADY.
23
THE MAIN ISSUE IS THE ENFORCER FROM THE NISHIYAMA OFFICE.
WELL, ALL RIGHT
HM.
PREMIER
BEEP
BUT ISN'T IT YOUR FAULT THAT YOU COULDN'T MANAGE THE CRISIS ADEQUATELY?
THE ENEMY SUBMARINE BROKE THROUGH THE DEFENSE LINE EASILY AND CAUSED A LOT OF DAMAGE.

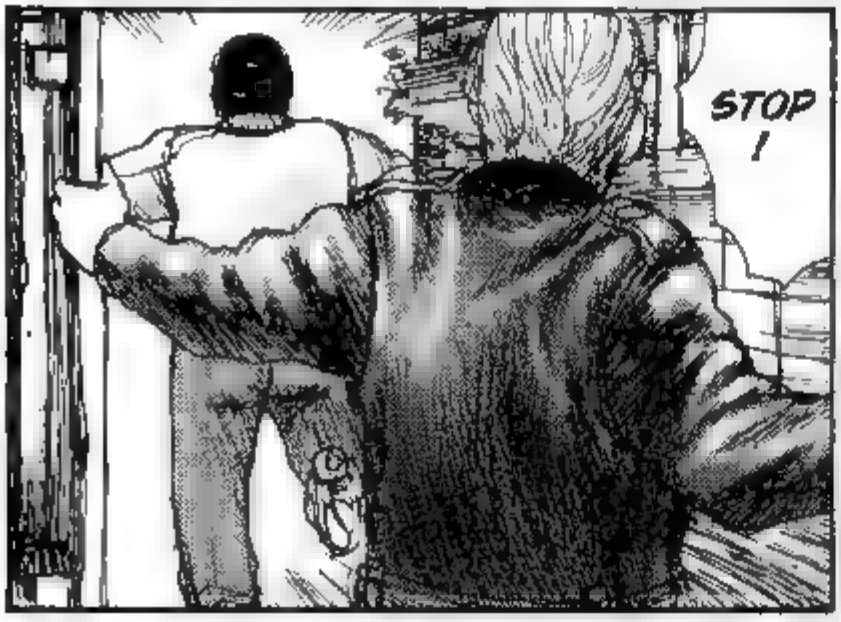
SLAM

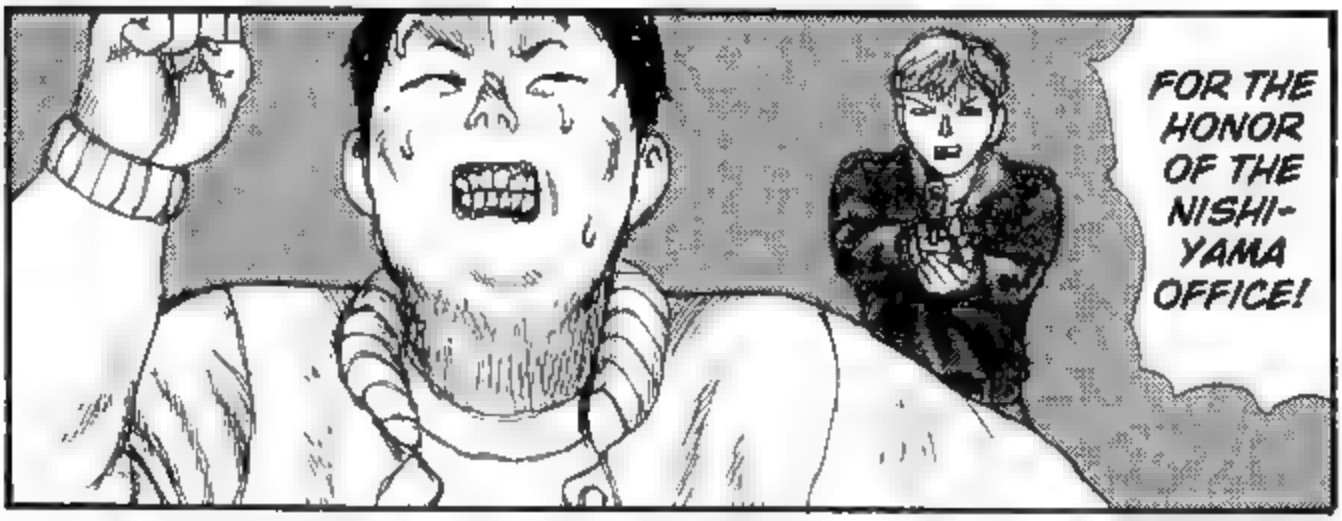
UGH!
THUD

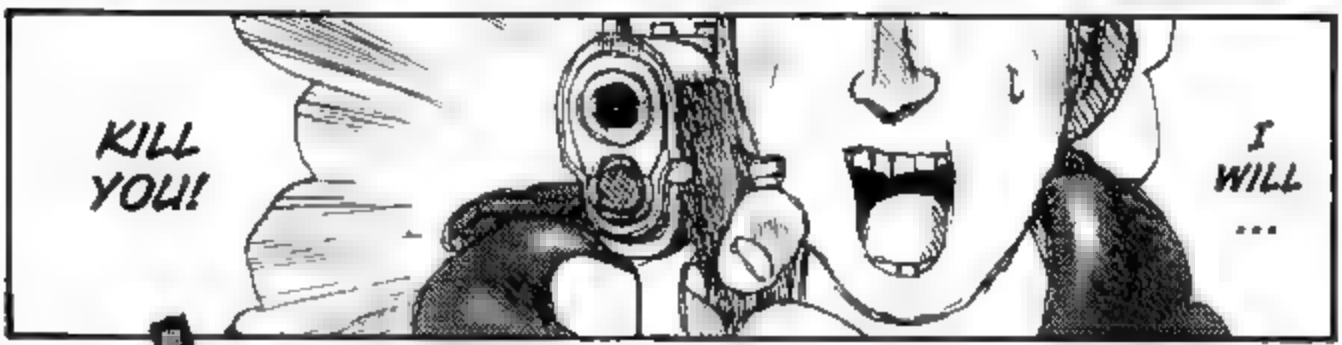
24

GASP
WHEEZE
IT'S IN ARTICLE 64 CLAUSE 8!

IT'S AGAINST THE LAW TO GO INTO ANOTHER CITIZEN'S HOME DURING AN ENFORCE-MENT!
HEY, SHI-MAYA-MA!
EEK!
THUD THUD


STOP !


FOR THE HONOR OF THE NISHI-YAMA OFFICE!


KILL YOU!
I WILL ...

BANG

THUD
AAH!
EH?
SPURT
YU ...
YUKIKO- I LOVE YOU-
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU MY FEELINGS NOW-

ドクドク!!

THERE WILL
SITUATION.
FIRST OF ALL,
I WOULD LIKE

THAT'S HILARIOUS!!
GAHA HAHA ...
HEH HEH HEH HEH. THE VENGEANCE ACT DIDN'T ANTICIPATE ANYTHING LIKE THIS!
A PROXY ACCIDENTALLY KILLED SOMEONE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ENFORCEMENT!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE VICTIMS WERE KEPT TO A MINIMUM HERE?
IS THIS THE TIME FOR LAUGHTER?
STOP PLAYING WITH WORDS!
HA HA HA HA ...
WELL, ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, THE MASS MEDIA HAS THEIR HANDS FULL WITH THE BOMBING RAID.
THE ASSOCIATION WILL LAUNCH AN INQUIRY INTO HIS CASE.
THAT ENFORCER MIGHT EVEN HAVE HIS LICENSE REVOKED! HAHA HAHA ...
28
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE MASS MEDIA WILL SENSATIONALIZE.
DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID, LIKE MOLEST SOMEONE ON THE TRAIN...
HOWEVER, ALL OF YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL. OUR LIVELIHOOD IS AT STAKE HERE.

WE'VE SPENT A LOT OF MONEY ON INFOR-MANTS...
BUT HAVEN'T MANAGED TO GET ANY GOOD JOBS.
TODAY ISN'T GOING WELL.
SHIT ...
HE'S A.. PAINTER..? WHAT THE HELL? THAT'S USELESS... NEXT...
TWO CHILDREN KILLED IN A ROBBERY AND ARSON..?
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
THE OWNER OF THE MAJOR RESTAURANT CHAIN SENDA.. HIS WIFE WAS RAPED AND KILLED..? HIS ANNUAL INCOME IS...
AHH, THIS IS GOOD.
IS YOSHIMI SENDA-SAN THERE? DOES HE HAVE A FEW MINUTES TO SPARE?
AHH, HEL..O. I'M HIGUCHI FROM THE KATSUMI PROXY VENGEANCE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE. ... YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

IT'S SOMEONE FROM THE FOXY BENCHING OFFICE...
MAMA ...
?
IS YOUR MOTHER OR FATHER THERE?
NEXT ...
IN THAT CASE, PLEASE GIVE US A CALL WHEN YOU'VE SORTED OUT YOUR FEELINGS... YES...
... THAT'S RIGHT.
OH, REALLY? WE'LL BE PRAYING FOR THEIR SUCCESS, THEN...
NEXT...
WE CONTRACTED THE YOKODA OFFICE LAST MONTH.
SCRATCH
I ALMOST MANAGED TO FORGET THAT INCIDENT UNTIL YOU CALLED!
WHAT!? VENGEANCE!? YOU AREN'T THINKING OF OUR FEELINGS AT ALL!
NEXT ...
SO PLEASE ACCEPT OUR OFFER OF HELP IN THIS MATTER...
WE'LL CONTACT THE OTHER FAMILIES INVOLVED IN THIS... YES...
SINCE THERE WAS A SERIES OF MURDERS FOR INSURANCE PAYOUTS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE AUTHORITIES WILL APPROVE THE CASE...
WE DEEPLY SYMPATHIZE WITH THE FEELINGS OF THE BEREAVED... YES, IT WAS REALLY HORRIFYING ...
THAT'S RIGHT.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
YAMADA-SAN.
IN THIS BOMBING RAID...
SO MANY PEOPLE DIED...
I'D LIKE TO LOCK UP.
THE MEET-ING'S OVER.
31
WE HAVE TO INFLICT OUR RETRI-BUTION ON THE ENEMY...
ALL THESE INNO-CENT PEOPLE WERE KILLED...
THE 380 CANDLES SYMBOLIZE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO PASSED AWAY.
DUSK SLOWLY FALLS ON THIS PLAZA DEDICATED TO THE VICTIMS WHO PER-ISHED IN THIS BUILDING.
HAVE SOMEONE WHO'LL BE YOUR STRENGTH WHEN YOU'RE SAD OR SUFFERING ?
DO ALL OF YOU...

CAN BECOME YOUR STRENGTH.
OUR SKILLED AND EXPERI-ENCED STAFF ..
IT'S WON-DER-FUL!
KANO-SAN! WATCH IT! TAKE A SEAT!
WE'LL HAVE OUR HANDS FULL AGAIN.
HEH HEH HEH... THIS IS GOING TO BE AN GOOD CASE.

WE JUST WANT TO PRESERVE OUR WAY OF LIFE, ALL RIGHT?
DON'T GO AROUND PICKING FIGHTS WITH STRONGER PEOPLE.
IT'S NOT ABOUT HOW STRONG WE ARE. WHETHER WE WIN OR LOSE...
DEPENDS ON HOW STRONG THE OTHER PERSON IS.

Chat #8 Negotiations

SPLASH
SPLASH
WE'LL DO WELL IF WE FOLLOW THAT.
YOU'RE BRIL-LIANT, BRO--
HER DOG'S CUTE
IT GETS ANGRY IF YOU DON'T WALK IT 3 TIMES A DAY.
ARE YOU STILL SEEING YOSHIE-SAN?
BUT WITH DOGS... THE CUTER THEY ARE, THE MORE I LOVE THEM.
WELL, HIROGAWA, I GET BORED OF WOMEN QUICKLY ESPECIALLY A WOMAN AS STUPID AS YOSHIE
SO YOU GO TO HER PLACE JUST TO SEE HER DOG, BRO?

YOU'RE JUST LIKE A CHILD...
THAT'S TRUE--
EXCUSE ME--
HYAH HAH...
ARATA! YOU SHOULD GET A WOMAN TOO! ONE THAT HAS A DOG!

I PRESUME ?
EICHI GUSEN-SAN...

THE PROXIES FROM MY COMPANY, THE KATSUMI OFFICE, WILL HANDLE THE CASE.
THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS IN THE INSURANCE PAYOUT-RELATED MURDERS 15 YEARS AGO REQUESTED IT.
PROXY ENFORCEMENT?
HERE ARE THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.
I'M HERE TODAY TO EXPLAIN THE DETAILS ABOUT THE ENFORCEMENT.
I HAD SOME TROUBLE TRACKING YOU DOWN, GUSEN-SAN.
I'M SORRY FOR BRINGING THIS UP SO SUDDENLY.
CRUNCH CRUNCH
HOW LONG DO YOU WANT US TO WAIT!?
EEK ...
HEY, MISS! WHEN ARE YOU GONNA BRING US SOME WATER?

CRUNCH CRUNCH
MY NAME IS HIGU-CHI.
THE SERVICE IN HERE IS TERRIBLE, ISN'T IT, MISS?
SPITEFUL, ISN'T IT? BRINGING UP THINGS FROM SO LONG AGO...
OH DEAR.. WHAT SHOULD I MAKE OF THIS WHOLE VENGEANCE THING?
5
MY NAME IS HIGU-CHI.
ANYHOW, MISS.
AFTER ALL, THEY MADE THE LAW BECAUSE THE PRISONS WERE GETTING TOO FULL...
WELL, WE GOT OUT OF PRISON EARLY THANKS TO THE VEN-GEANCE ACT, DIDN'T WE?
PUFF
HAVE A DOG?
DO YOU ...

WAHAHAHA
WELL, THAT'S A SHAME.
I GUESS YOU'RE NOT A CONTENDER, THEN, HIGUCHI-SAN.
REALLY ?
YES.
WHY DO YOU ASK ?
... NO.
THE PROXIES GOT NERVOUS AND DECIDED TO CALL THE WHOLE THING OFF!
WHEN WE GOT ANGRY AND THREATENED TO BARRICADE OURSELVES IN A BUILDING AND FIGHT ...
THAT REMINDS ME, SOME PEOPLE FROM A PROXY OFFICE CAME TO SEE US 2 YEARS AGO.
I REALLY WANTED A GUNFIGHT!
AHH-- WHAT A SHAME!
WHILE YOU WERE STILL ARGUING, I CALLED UP AN ACQUAINTANCE IN THE DIET AND GOT HIM TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE OFFICE FOR ME.
YOU'RE CLUELESS, HIROGAWA.

WE'RE PROFESSIONALS. WE WOULD NEVER BETRAY OUR CLIENTS' TRUST LIKE THAT.
PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT.
REALLY...
.....
ANYHOW, IF YOU'D PLEASE SIGN HERE, THAT'LL BE ALL FOR TODAY...
WHAT'S WITH THIS VENGEANCE SHIT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BITCH!?
STOP FUCKING AROUND !!
GRAB

PUNCH
HIROGAWA!!
WHAT HE DID WAS TERRIBLE ...
A-- A-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, HIGUCHI-SAN?
AREN'T YOU JUST DISGRACING GUSEN-SAN!?
AHH ...
THUD
I'M PREPARED TO APOLOGIZE IN ANY WAY I CAN...
PLEASE RESORT TO LEGAL MEANS IF YOU HAVE TO...
.....

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH.
YOU'RE TREMBLING. I'M WORRIED ...
ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT?
ALL RIGHT.
... I'M ...
I REALLY AM.
I'M ALL RIGHT.

AND IT SEEMS THEY MADE A PROXY OFFICE STOP GOING AFTER THEM BEFORE...
THEY WERE STRANGE, AND KEPT TALKING AMONG THEM-SELVES.
FZZSH
AOTA-SAN'S. BUT THEY'RE PRETTY WEAK.
WHICH OFFICE WAS IT?
THEY'RE UNUSUALLY CONFIDENT OF THEM-SELVES.
INTELLI-GENT SOLDIERS ONLY FIGHT UNDER FAVORABLE CIRCUM-STANCES.
THAT THE OUTCOME OF A WAR IS DECIDED BEFORE THE FIRST SHOT IS FIRED?
BOSS, DON'T YOU ALWAYS SAY...
HEY, WAIT! ARE YOU PLAN-NING TO USE ME AGAIN?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? DON'T YOU HAVE CON-NECTIONS YOU CAN USE, BOSS?
AREN'T THEY PRETTY SIMILAR TO US?

GEEZE.
INTELLI-GENT SOLDIERS SHOULDN'T NEED HELP.
AHH, I'M HOME. I'LL TALK TO YOU TOMOR-ROW AT THE OFFICE...
HEY, WAIT--
BEEP
NOW SEE HERE. IT'S TROUBLE-SOME TO ARRANGE FOR THE SPECIAL MEASURES TO BE TAKEN, AND THE AUTHORI-TIES AREN'T...

WOOF
WOOF
LET ME GET YOUR FOOD READY...
YOU'RE HUNGRY, AREN'T YOU?
I'M HOME--
CLICK

PLEASE CALL ME WHEN YOU NEED ME, ALL RIGHT?

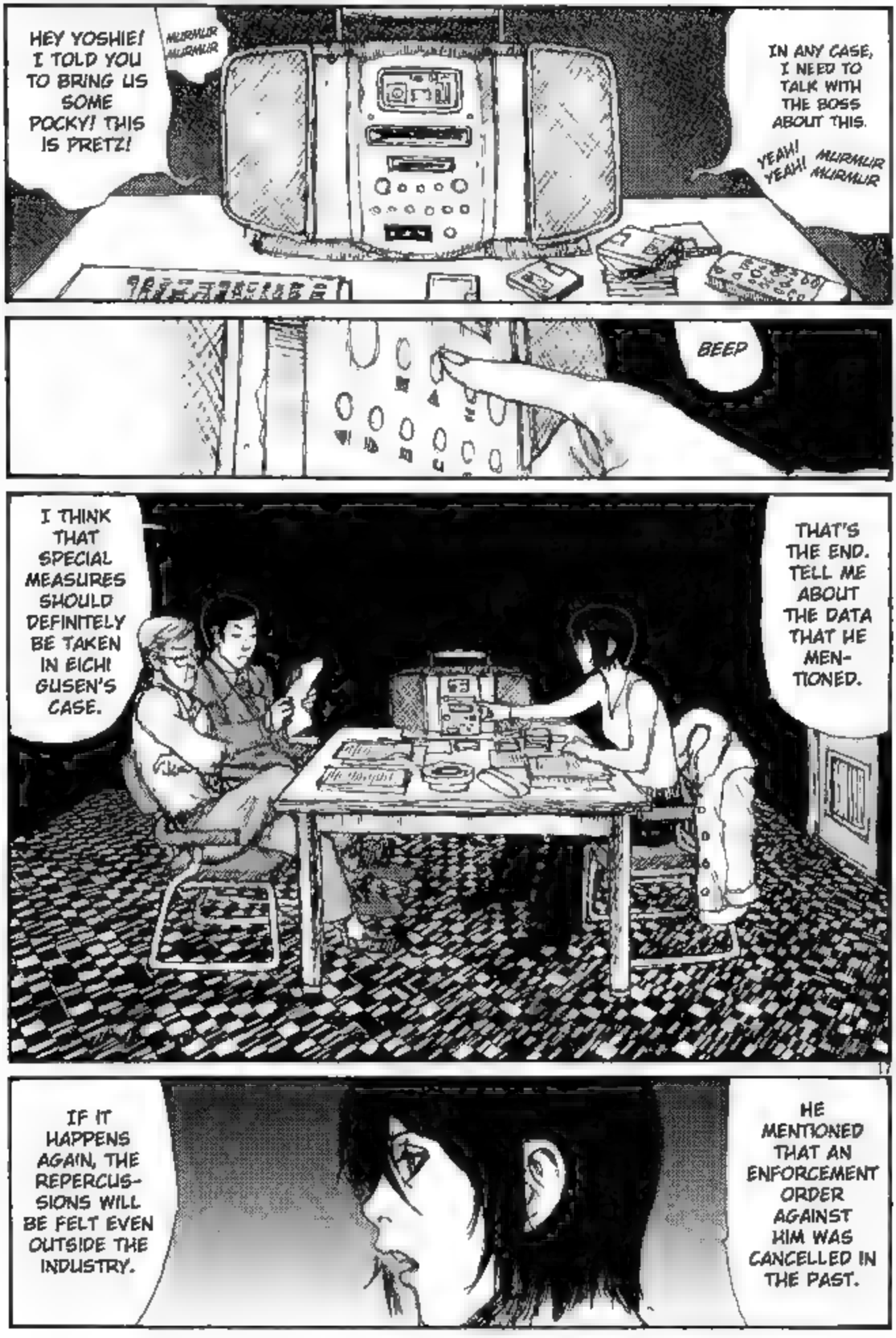
AHH-- WHAT A SHAME!
I REALLY WANTED A GUN-FIGHT!
DO YOU... HAVE A DOG?
?
... NO.
WELL, WE GOT OUT OF PRISON EARLY THANKS TO THE VEN-GEANCE ACT, DIDN'T WE?
THUMP
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M HIGUCHI FROM THE KATSUMI PROXY VEN-GEANCE OFFICE.
RUSTLE RUMMAGE THUMP
WHIRR
HMMPH.
CRASH THUMP
STOP FUCKING AROUND!!
WHAT'S WITH THIS VEN-GEANCE SHIT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BITCH!?

CLINK CLINK
SHE WAS A REALLY FREAKY WOMAN.V
BUT...
SHE DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUES-TION AT ALL!
DID YOU SEE HER EYES?
HEY-- HOW ABOUT BUYING ME ANOTHER DRINK, EI-CHAN--?
EVEN PROXIES ARE BUSINESS-MEN AT HEART. THEY DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN MESSY CASES.
THERE'S ALWAYS SOME KIND OF SIGNAL.
IT'S IMPORTANT TO SENSE DANGER BEFORE IT COMES AT YOU.
WE'LL BE FINE AS LONG AS OUR OPPO-NENT ISN'T AS SHREWD AS YOU ARE, BRO
OH NO... THAT'S SCA-RY ...
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT VEN-GEANCE KILLING, YOSHIE-SAN.

ARE YOU STILL A KID?
I NEED TO PEE.
AHH!
WHAT'S WRONG?
I'LL PROTECT YOU WITH MY LIFE, BRO!
STUPID WOMAN..
I'LL FIGHT BESIDE YOU, BRO, WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE.
ALL TALK, AREN'T YOU?
I'M SERIOUS!
IT WAS PRETTY ORDINARY...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THE RECORDING OF EI-CHAN'S CONVERSATION?
BUT THERE WASN'T ANY OTHER WAY TO HIDE IT.
PUTTING A MIKE IN THERE REALLY HURT...
NICE WORK.
OH.

HE'LL BE FINE. ANYHOW, HERE'S THE MONEY FOR ALL THE WORK UP TO NOW.
YOU PROMISED, DIDN'T YOU? I'LL CRY IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO EI-CHAN...
THAT'S FINE, THAT'S FINE. I DON'T WANT TO TROUBLE YOU OR GUSEN-SAN ANY FURTHER.
SEE YOU AGAIN IN 10 DAYS, OKAY?
DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS.
I WON'T BREATHE A WORD.
YEAH.
I'LL BUY EI-CHAN A SCARF THIS TIME...

NOTE: POCKY (CHOCOLATE-COATED STICKS) & PRETZ (PRETZEL STICKS) ARE JAPANESE SNACKS.

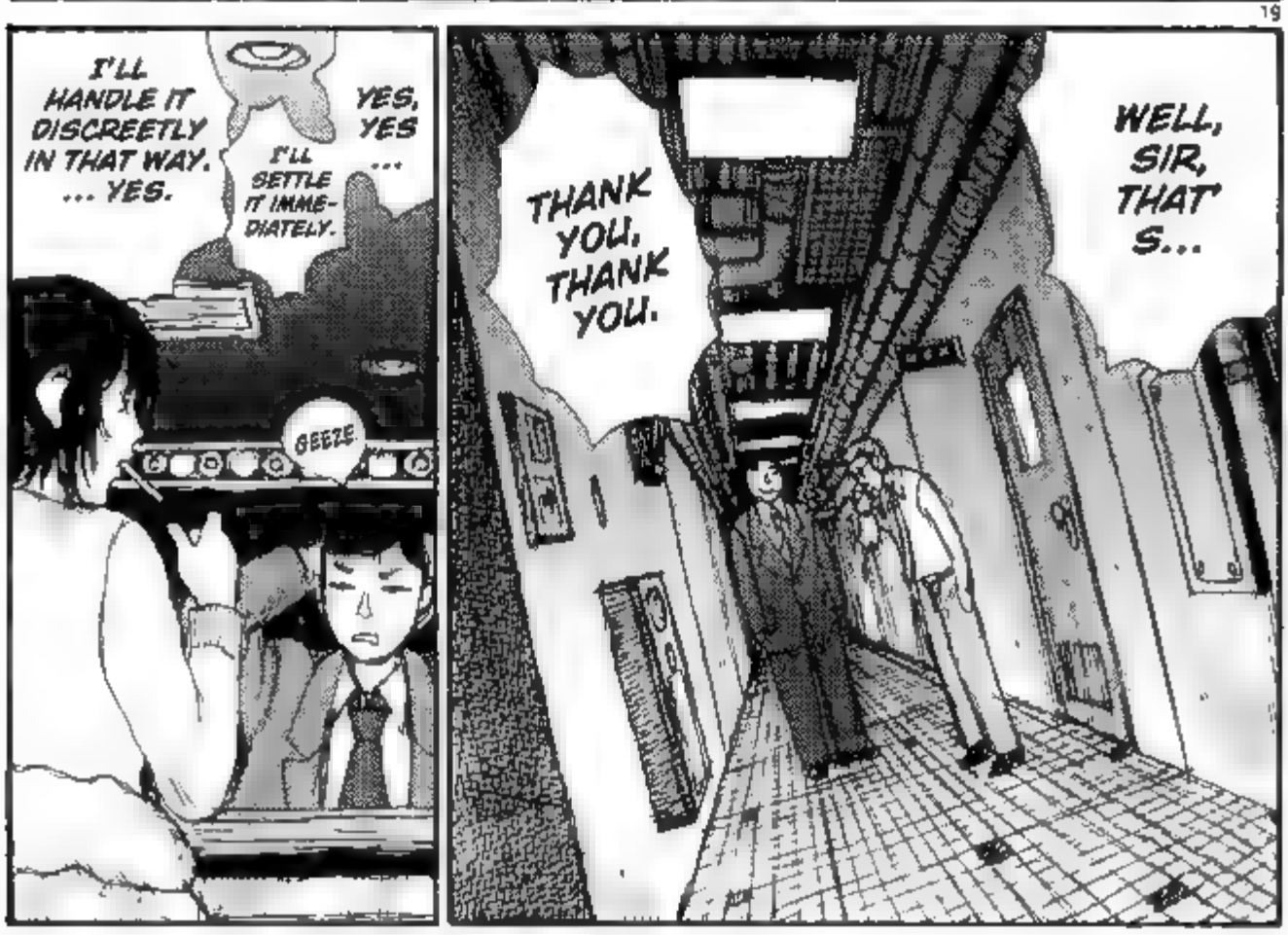

HEY YOSHIE! I TOLD YOU TO BRING US SOME POCKY! THIS IS PRETZ!
MURMUR MURMUR
IN ANY CASE, I NEED TO TALK WITH THE BOSS ABOUT THIS.
YEAH! YEAH!
MURMUR MURMUR
BEEP
I THINK THAT SPECIAL MEASURES SHOULD DEFINITELY BE TAKEN IN EICHI GUSEN'S CASE.
THAT'S THE END. TELL ME ABOUT THE DATA THAT HE MEN-TIONED.
IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN, THE REPERCUS-SIONS WILL BE FELT EVEN OUTSIDE THE INDUSTRY.
HE MENTIONED THAT AN ENFORCEMENT ORDER AGAINST HIM WAS CANCELLED IN THE PAST.

BUT MOST OF YOUR EVIDENCE IS BASED ON IDLE GOSSIP AND HEARSAY.
WELL, YOUR ARGUMENTS ARE PERSUASIVE ...
ADDITIONALLY, AS A MATTER PRESERVING THE SANCTITY OF OUR NATION'S LAW AND ORDER..
THEN WHAT IS THE PROBLEM ?
NO, TIMIDITY ISN'T THE PROBLEM ...
BUT WE CAN'T MAKE ANY PROGRESS IF WE'RE THIS TIMID.
I KNOW THAT IT'S A DELICATE MATTER FOR THE MILITARY, AS THERE HASN'T BEEN A PRECEDENT FOR THESE SPECIAL MEASURES...

JUSTICE MINISTER-- THERE'S A CALL FOR YOU--
YOU!! ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT I'M ONLY DOING THIS TO PROTECT MYSELF!?
CLATTER...
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE TRYING TO COVER THIS UP.
THE PROBLEM IS THE SHEER NUMBER OF INTEREST GROUPS AND POLITICIANS WHO CAN'T KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT, ISN'T IT?
WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING!?
WHA --

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME!?
I SAID I'D TAKE IT LATER!
I'LL TAKE IT LATER! LATER!

19

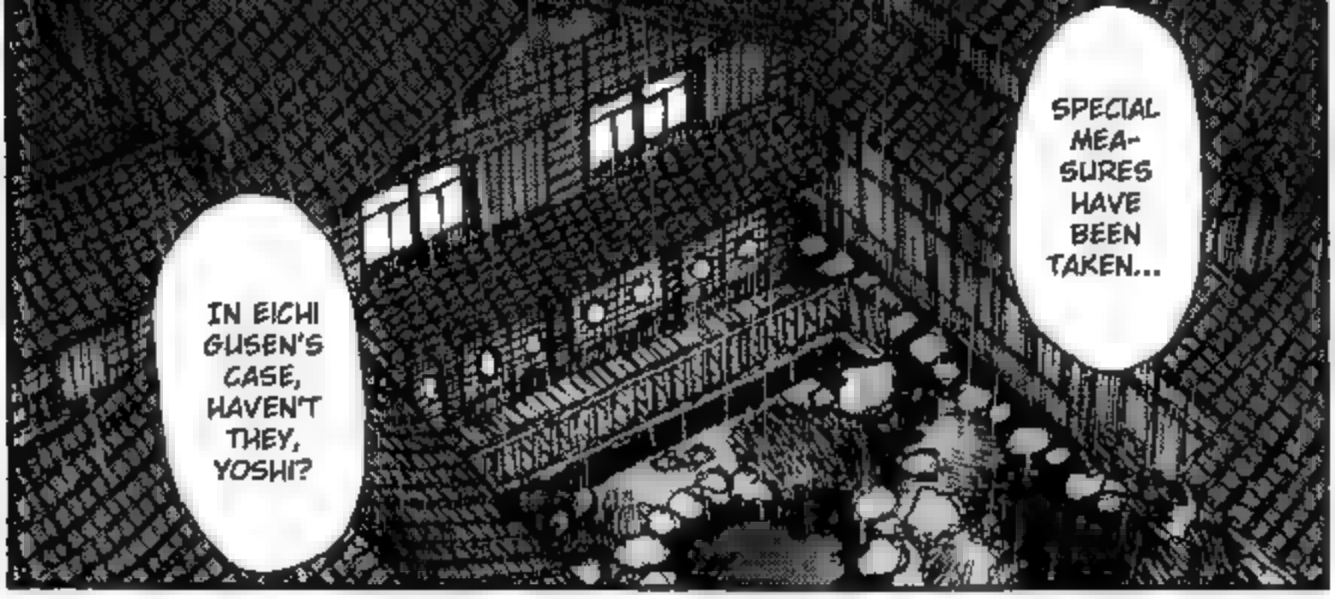

I'LL HANDLE IT DISCREETLY IN THAT WAY. ... YES.
I'LL SETTLE IT IMMEDIATELY.
YES, YES ...
GEEZE
THANK YOU, THANK YOU.
WELL, SIR, THAT'S...

WELL, YOSSHI GETS ANGRY IF YOU DON'T WALK HIM 3 TIMES A DAY ...
YOU'RE TAKING HIM FOR ANOTHER WALK!?
HEY-- HURRY UP... LET'S DO IT...
I STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN HIM THE SCARF...
GEEZE ...
I'M OFF, LOVE.
COME STRAIGHT BACK, ALL RIGHT? I CAN'T WAIT ANYMORE ...
20
PANT
PANT
PANT

THE CAR'S PARKED HERE, BUT WHERE DID THEY GO... GEEZE...
HUH? HIROGAWA AND ARATA AREN'T HERE...
A BUNCH OF USELESS BODY-GUARDS.
THEY'RE HOPE-LESS.
I'LL PLAY WITH YOU IN A BIT...
HANG ON, HANG ON, I'M STILL UNTYING YOUR CHAIN...
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
DON'T GO TOO FAR, ALL RIGHT?

I'D BETTER MAKE SURE...
I WONDER IF HE'S ALREADY TALKED TO THE MINISTER FOR ME ...
BEEP
BEEP
I SHOULD GIVE BOSS YOSHI A CALL...
...GUSEN?
CLICK
YES? HELLO?
RIIIIING
RIIIIING
GUSEN! ANSWER ME!
HELLO?

WH-- WHICH CORPO-RATION ARE YOU FROM?
OR I'LL KILL YOU.
DON'T MOVE.
WITH SOMEONE MORE POWER-FUL THAN YOU ARE.
YOU'VE PICKED A FIGHT...
CLICK
WHY ...
THE MILI-TARY ...?
WE EVEN HAVE MIS-SILES.
SPALDING
WE'RE THE STRON-GEST GANG IN THIS COUNTRY
23
THUD

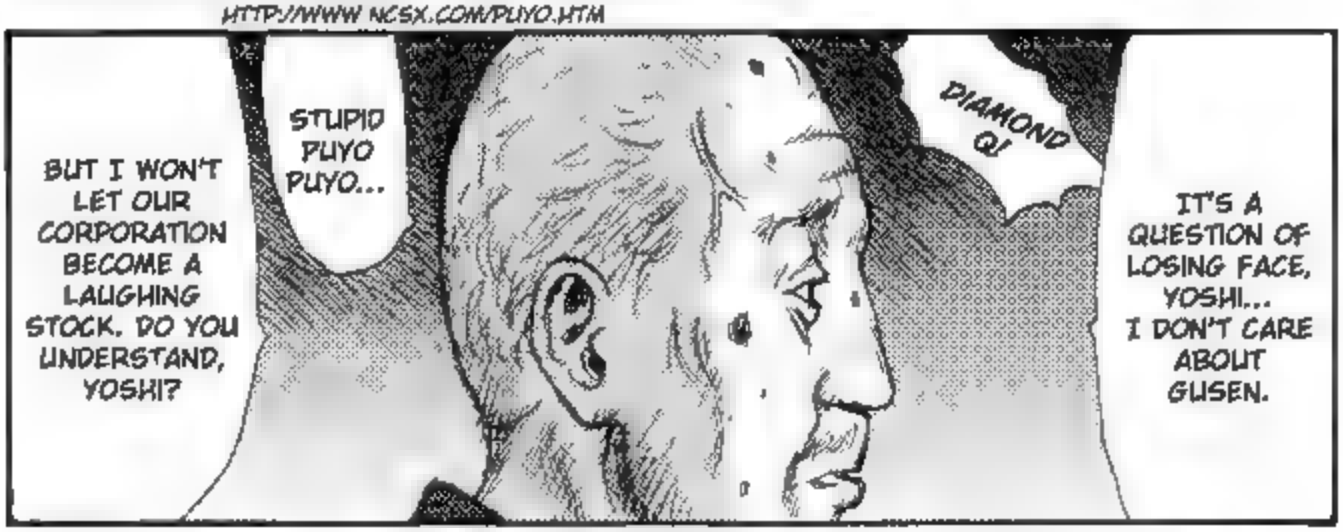

SPECIAL MEA-SURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN...
IN EICHI GUSEN'S CASE, HAVEN'T THEY, YOSHI?

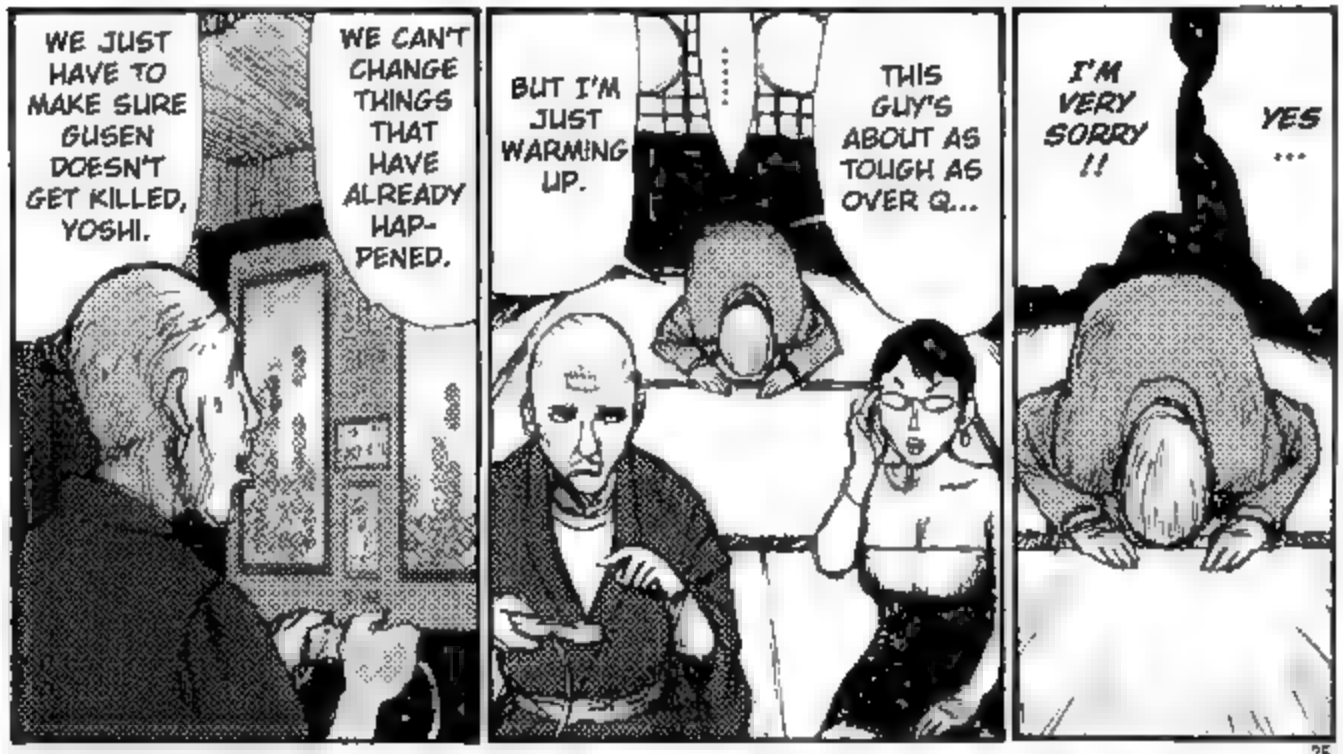
I'M SURPRISED THAT YOU CALLED ME ABOUT THAT, SIR.
... YES.

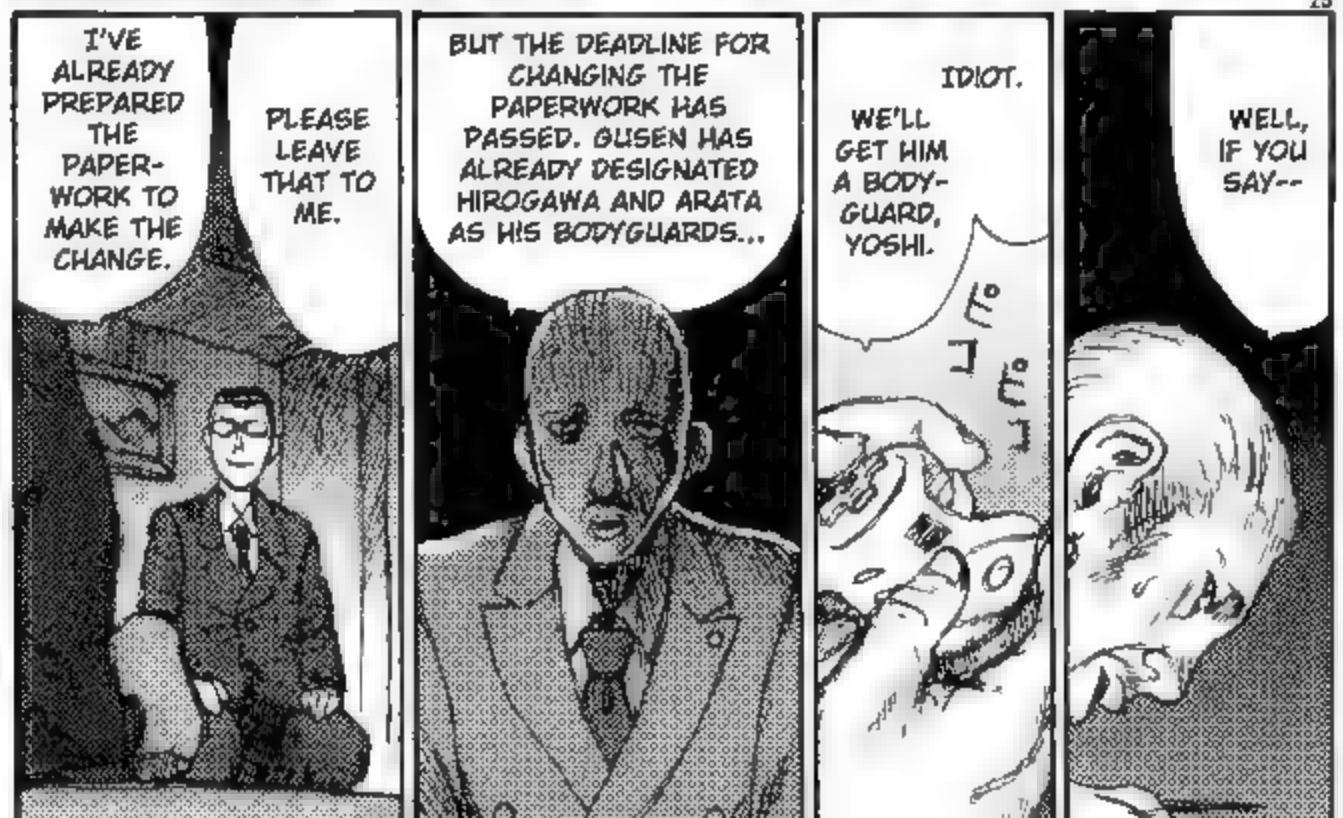
23

THE POLICE WILL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO MOVE IN ON YOU, YOSHI.
DON'T THINK THAT WE CAN DO SOMETHING CHILDISH LIKE ATTACK THEIR OFFICE...
THEY GOT THE MILITARY IN ON THIS. THE FIGHT'S JUST BEGIN-NING, YOSHI.
THEY'RE A SKILLED OFFICE, YOSHI.
YOU'RE UNDER-ESTI-MATING THEM.

NOTE: PUYO PUYO IS THE NAME OF THE VIDEO GAME THAT HE'S PLAYING.
HTTP://WWW.NCSX.COM/PUYO.HTM


BUT I WON'T LET OUR CORPORATION BECOME A LAUGHING STOCK. DO YOU UNDERSTAND, YOSHI?
STUPID PUYO PUYO...
DIAMOND Q!
IT'S A QUESTION OF LOSING FACE, YOSHI... I DON'T CARE ABOUT GUSEN.


WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE GUSEN DOESN'T GET KILLED, YOSHI.
WE CAN'T CHANGE THINGS THAT HAVE ALREADY HAP-PENED.
BUT I'M JUST WARMING UP.
THIS GUY'S ABOUT AS TOUGH AS OVER Q...
I'M VERY SORRY !!
YES ...


I'VE ALREADY PREPARED THE PAPER-WORK TO MAKE THE CHANGE.
PLEASE LEAVE THAT TO ME.
BUT THE DEADLINE FOR CHANGING THE PAPERWORK HAS PASSED. GUSEN HAS ALREADY DESIGNATED HIROGAWA AND ARATA AS HIS BODYGUARDS...
IDIOT.
WE'LL GET HIM A BODY-GUARD, YOSHI.
WELL, IF YOU SAY--

JUST ONE?
I'VE PICKED A BODY-GUARD FROM ONE OF THE BODYGUARD OFFICES IN OUR CORPO-RATION.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, CHAIR-MAN.
HE'S OUR LAWYER.
BUT DON'T WORRY. HE'S RELIABLE, YOSHI.
I COULDN'T HELP IT. HE ONLY WORKS ALONE.
26
STANDING BEHIND YOU FOR A WHILE NOW, YOSHI..
HE'S BEEN..
RUSTLE
HUH?

NO WAY.

I HAVE IT HERE.
THEIR INFORMATION NETWORK ISN'T BAD. THEY SUBMITTED THE PAPERWORK IN THE FEW HOURS BEFORE THE PERMISSION FOR SPECIAL MEASURES WAS GIVEN.
CLICK
GUSEN HIRED ONE BODYGUARD.
NOT A CHANCE. THE OFFICE HE BELONGS TO IS PART OF GUSEN'S CORPORATION.
LOOKS LIKE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO BUY OFF THE BODYGUARD LIKE WE USUALLY DO...
28
SEIICHI TACHIBANA FROM THE TSUKIYAMA OFFICE.
WHO'S THE BODYGUARD?
HIGUCHI-SAN.
NO WAY ...

AS THE PHANTOM
HE'S KNOWN WITHIN THE INDUS-TRY...
ISN'T HUMAN.
THAT GUY...
THE PHAN-TOM?
.....?

I'M NOT GOING UP AGAINST HIM.
NO MATTER HOW MANY LIVES YOU HAVE, IT WON'T BE ENOUGH.
NOBODY CAN BEAT HIM.

WE HAVE HIM.
THAT'S TRUE ...
IT'LL BE FINE!
THOUGH HE TOOK TODAY OFF..
B-- B-- BUT WE HAVE KANO-SAN..
THE PHANTOM ...
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA..
FZZZZ
MIGHT BE ABLE TO KILL KANO.

GATSU, ZYPH, & ZZLED
HAWKS & OMANGA

CHAT #9

TRAVELING

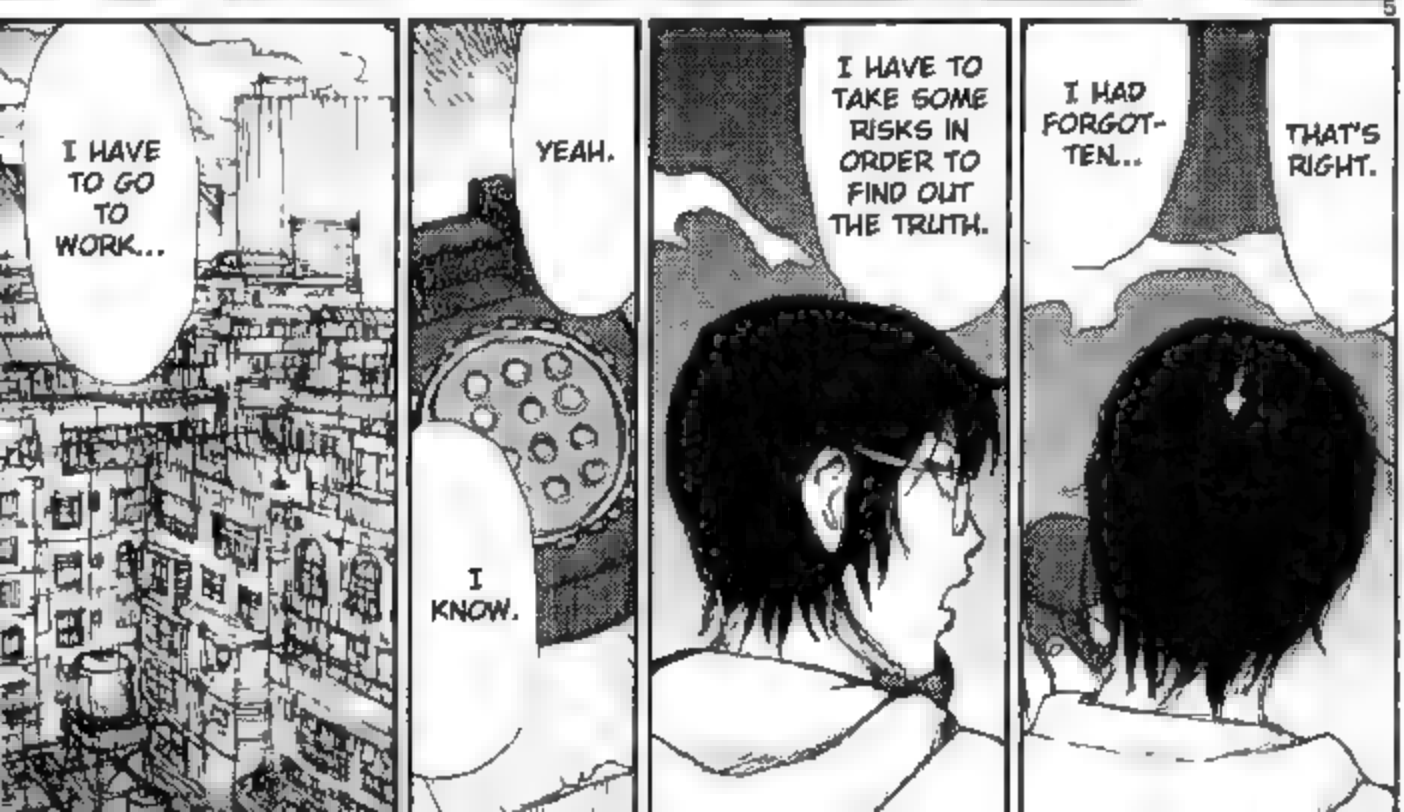
Day of the Enforcement 8:28am Kano's Home
RIIIING
RIIIING
2
THE PHONE ISN'T REALLY RINGING. NOBODY'S PICKING IT UP, AFTER ALL.
I'M HEARING THINGS AGAIN.
RIIIIING
RIIIING

KEIKO GO?
WHERE DID...

CLICK
RIIIIING
カチャ
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU CALLING SO EARLY IN THE MORNING FOR?
HURRY AND COME TO THE OFFICE! YOU CAN'T BE LATE TODAY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KANO-KUN? TODAY'S THE ENFORCEMENT!
HEY LISTEN UP
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO CHAT WITH YOU ON THE PHONE RIGHT NOW
YOU HAVE A NAME ...
DON'T YOU?
TELL ME YOUR NAME.
WHO ... ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? STOP FOOLING AROUND!

WOOOOO
WE MIGHT BE SIMILAR, BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE LIKE YOU DO, ALL RIGHT?
BESIDES, IF YOU JUST STAY AT HOME, YOU WON'T FIND THE ANSWER THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

BEEEEEP
BEEEEEP
BEEEEEP
CLANK
BEEP
HURRY UP AND GET HERE.
THERE'S NO TIME.


I HAVE TO GO TO WORK...
YEAH.
I KNOW.
I HAVE TO TAKE SOME RISKS IN ORDER TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH.
I HAD FORGOT-TEN..
THAT'S RIGHT.

IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE... YOU'RE OFF TO WAR TODAY, AFTER ALL...
THANKS FOR DROPPING ME OFF, KASUMI-CHAN.
At the same time In front of a train station
Maita Station
IF I'LL GET OFF WORK EARLY.
YEAH... PROBABLY.
IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I JUST MAIL YOU?
I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE YOU TONIGHT, ICHIRO.
FELLOW CITIZENS!
GOOD MORNING!
AHH... I'M KINDA NERVOUS ABOUT THAT...
MAKE SURE YOU KEEP THIS WEEKEND FREE. I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO PAPA.

WE ARE CAMPAIGNING TO KEEP UP THE FIGHTING SPIRIT ON THE HOME
NOW IS THE TIME TO UNITE !
WE ARE THE UNITED ASIA ANTI-CHRISTIAN PRO-WAR PARTY!
THIS IS MY JOB.
OH DEAR ...
PLEASE.
COW
NOW IS THE TIME TO UNITE
BOO
THEY'RE BLOODY NOISY.
WHAT THE HELL?
A STAR WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE DIET... KOYAMA USSHI-SAN!
TODAY I AM PROUD TO INTRODUCE...
FOR REAL? AWESOME!
I KNOW HIS WIFE USED TO BE A STAR, BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO BOAST...
WAR IS ABOUT PHYSICAL STRENGTH! WE HAVE TO BE STRONG! EVERYONE, PLEASE DRINK MORE MILK!
THAT'S NOT EVEN FUNNY ...
I DRINK MILK EVERY DAY! EVEN THOUGH IT'S MY WIFE'S MILK ..
OKAY, TAKE CARE!
OH NO, I HAVE TO GO!

AHH!
HURRY --
JUST TAKE IT! I WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE OF MAKING IT. .
I WON'T HAVE TIME!
OH, ICHIRO! YOUR LUNCH!
AHH--
SOMEONE JUST WALKED OVER MY GRAVE...
WOOOOO
I FEEL LIKE...

WA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
9:12am Highway #12
I'LL KILL YOU IF YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT LITTLE THINGS LIKE THAT... GAHA HAHA ...
IT'S CLOUDY, YOU KNOW...
A PERFECT DAY FOR YOU TWO TO BECOME MURDER-ERS!
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY, ISN'T IT!?

YOU'D WANNA LEAVE ANY MESSAGES WITH ME SO THAT YOU WON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS IF YOU DIE!?
IT WON'T BE RIGGED THIS TIME-- IT'S GONNA BE A BLOODBATH!
AND WHAT DO I DO IF HE TELLS ME TO KILL KANO-SAN!?
WHY IN THE WORLD IS HE SO EDGY IN THE MORNING AGAIN..?
HOOOOONK
SCREECH
OH NO--
GWAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA...

DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?
HUH ?
MIZOGUCHI-SEMPAI?
COULD YOU BE A LITTLE QUIETER...
PHONE ?
PH--
WE ALL NEED TO CALM DOWN A BIT...
THE PHONE'S BEEN RINGING SINCE EARLIER
I DON'T GET IT.
IT'LL JUST KEEP RINGING IF I DON'T FIND IT, Y'KNOW?
I KNOW THE HANDSET IS SOME-WHERE AROUND HERE...

WAS DESCRIBED AS A PRETTY AND CHEERFUL GIRL BY HER CLASSMATES. THAT FATEFUL DAY, SHE WAS ON HER WAY BACK FROM SCHOOL...
SONY
YUKIKO ODA-SAN, WHO DIED AFTER BEING DRAGGED INTO A VENGEANCE ENFORCE-MENT THE OTHER DAY...
12
I GUAR-ANTEE IT.
THE RINGING WILL STOP SOON ENOUGH
RELAX, KANO.
WE'RE NOW TAKING CALLS FROM VIEWERS ...
PLEASE DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT .
WELL... I THINK... THE GIRL NEXT TO HER IS DAMN UGLY, EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN'T SEE HER EYES.
WOOOOO
I'LL MAKE SURE THE PHANTOM GETS YOU.
HEH HEH HEH
YOU'LL DIE ON THE JOB TODAY.

Volume 1 Private House

WELL, THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS. DO YOU HAVE ANY QUES-TIONS?
SINCE THE

UMM, WHERE ARE WE ANYWAY ?
W-- WELL IF YOU'RE GOING TO RUSH THINGS LIKE THAT

IN ANY CASE, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR COOPERATION, ALL OF YOU.
IT'S FUNDAMENTALLY THE SAME AS THE VENGEANCE ACT. IT'S AS WE DISCUSSED AT THAT COFFEE SHOP, GUSEN-SAN.
BUT DON'T WORRY.
ACCORDING TO THE SPECIAL MEASURES ACT, I DON'T HAVE TO PROVIDE THAT INFORMATION.
I-- I-- I'M NOT IN THIS AS WELL, AM I?
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY ALL OF US?
W-- W-- W-- WAIT!
WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME...
14
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
AHH... WELL... MY BROTHER DID THAT ON HIS OWN ACCORD...
I-- I-- I ALSO DIDN'T WANT TO BE PART OF THIS!
YOU'RE SIGNED UP AS ONE OF THE TARGET'S BODYGUARDS.
OF COURSE YOU ARE.

I...
DON'T WORRY
BEHAVE YOUR-SELVES!
A PROFES-SIONAL BODYGUARD IS ON THE WAY. HE'S ONE OF THE BEST.
THE BOSS TOOK CARE OF THINGS.
15
SO ONE OF YOU WILL HAVE TO STAY HERE.
NO... THERE'S JUST ONE BODY-GUARD.
SO WE'RE BOTH OFF THE HOOK?
REALLY ?
I NEED ONE OF YOU TO SIGN HERE...
HUH?

CRASH
WAHH !!
LET GO OF ME! I'LL SIGN IT!
SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH
FORGIVE ME FOR THIS, BRO!
HAHAHA ... LOOK AT THEM!
THEY'RE DESPER-ATE!
OH, HOW EMBARRASS-ING— SSING—
WAIT!
CAN I CALL YOU 'BRO'? BRO— O—
OW OW OW OW OW OW!

PANT PANT PANT
I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT
WELL ?
I SIGNED IT.
SOB
SNIF SNIF
IF I CAN DO... ANY-THING
I-- I... MY WIFE'S SICK...
AHH...
BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT I'M GOING TO DIE
IT'S NOT THE END YET
WELL SO THAT'S HOW IT IS

MY NAME IS HIGUCHI
HANG ON, SIS.
WHOEVER GETS TO BE THE BODY-GUARD...
SINCE THINGS HAVE CALMED DOWN A BIT, I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE OTHER DAY?
UHH... I WANTED TO APOL-OGIZE FOR THE OTHER DAY...
N-- NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
I SAID SOME-THING THAT REALLY BOTH-ERED YOU...
NO, NO, I REALLY HAVE TO APOLO-GIZE.
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THAT...
AHH!
HUH? YOU'RE MAD THAT I ASSAULTED YOU, RIGHT?! PLEASE!

I'M SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU ALL THIS TROUBLE I'M TRULY SORRY...
I'M SORRY FOR BEING SO SELFISH. PLEASE ACCEPT MY HUMBLE APOLOGIES.
NO, I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO APOLO-GIZE...
HOW LONG ARE YOU TWO GOING TO KEEP THAT UP?

11:34am On the outskirts of the same village

SINCE THAT HIGH SCHOOL GIRL WAS SHOT, THERE'S BEEN TALK ABOUT USING THESE SPECIAL MEASURES FOR REGULAR VENGEANCE KILLINGS.
BY OFFERING THE LOCATION, THEY GET PRIORITY FOR GOVERNMENT AID
BESIDES, THE REMAINING VILLAGERS WELCOMED THE IDEA
IT'S PARTLY ABANDONED THERE AREN'T THAT MANY PEOPLE LIVING HERE
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ENTER THE VILLAGE WHILE THE SPECIAL MEASURES ARE IN FORCE.
SO SO
DID YOU FORGET ANYTHING?
RESIDENTS! PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR!
UHM. YES.
ARE YOU ONE OF THE ROKIES?
EXCUSE ME...
YES?
THEY EVEN HAD TO BRING THE MILITARY INTO THIS.
IT'S QUITE A LARGE OPERATION.

OH NO, I'M JUST A NORMAL PERSON ...
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE MORE FRIGHTENING, BUT YOU LOOK LIKE A GOOD BOY...
WELL, SINCE YOU'RE HERE IN THIS VILLAGE YOU'D HAVE TO BE INVOLVED.
REALLY?
WOOOOO
I'M NOTHING LIKE THOSE TWO OVER THERE.
HMM?
YOU ...
MIGHT EVEN DIE.
HE'S OUR OPPONENT THIS TIME.
YOU'RE THE BEST SUITED TO DEAL WITH HIM.
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE PHANTOM.
KANO ...
CLICK CLICK

HAVE YOU EVER MET THIS PHANTOM ?
IDIOT
IF I HAD, I WOULDN'T BE HERE TO TALK ABOUT IT
THEY SAY YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE HIM.
HE MIGHT BE JUST LIKE YOU.
IT ISN'T THAT YOU CAN'T SEE HIM. YOU JUST CAN'T SENSE HIM.
PEOPLE ONLY PERCEIVE WHAT THEY THINK IS REAL.
SUCH THINGS GIVE OUT A KIND OF SIGNAL THAT YOU CAN SEE.
IS IT DANGEROUS? OR IS IT SAFE? DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL SMALL? FEEL SCARED?
HE MANIPULATES YOUR SENSES IN ORDER TO DRIVE YOU CRAZY.
... SO WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
BUT YOU CAN KILL HIM NOW.
HUH?

HE'S PROBABLY TRYING TO SIZE US UP.
HE'S INTENTIONALLY EXPOSING HIMSELF RIGHT NOW.
DIRECTLY BEHIND ME.
.....!
WHERE IS HE?
.....
WHA...

WHO'S HE TALKING TO?

KYAA!
GET DOWN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HEY!
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
HUH?

DID YOU HEAR ME?
WHA WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? DROP THE GUN!
HUH? THE OLD MAN DISAP-PEARED
.....
IT'S CONSIDERED MURDER IF YOU KILL SOMEONE BEFORE THE ENFORCE-MENT STARTS.
HEH HEH... HEH... DON'T MIND ME.
LET ME SEE YOUR GUN PERMIT.

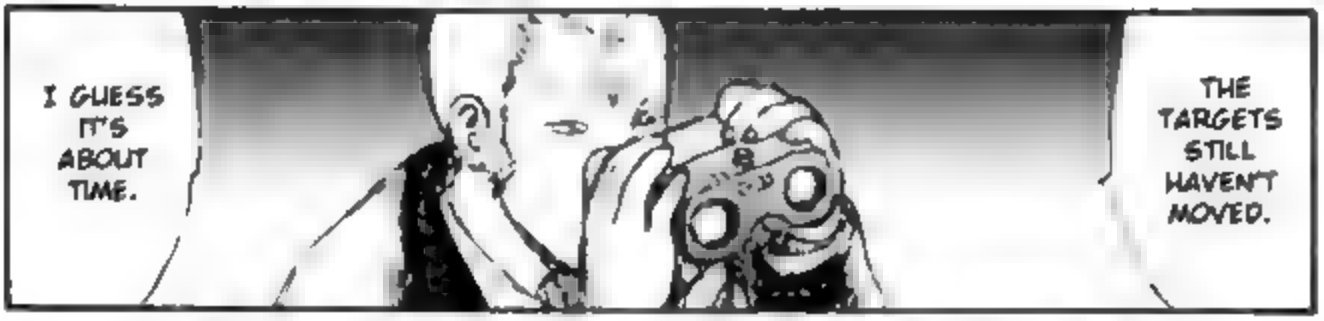
THE BODY-GUARD?
YOU'RE ...
11:48am
WE SHOULD PLAN QUICKLY.
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME BEFORE THE ENFORCE-MENT STARTS.
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU, ANYWAY? STOP FOOLING AROUND!
I'M NOT LAUGH-ING! I'M NOT LAUGH-ING AT ALL!
YOUR FRIEND OVER THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO LIKE IT
I'M SORRY I'M NOT YOUNG.
MY BODY-GUARD'S A TINY OLD MAN?
HANG ON...

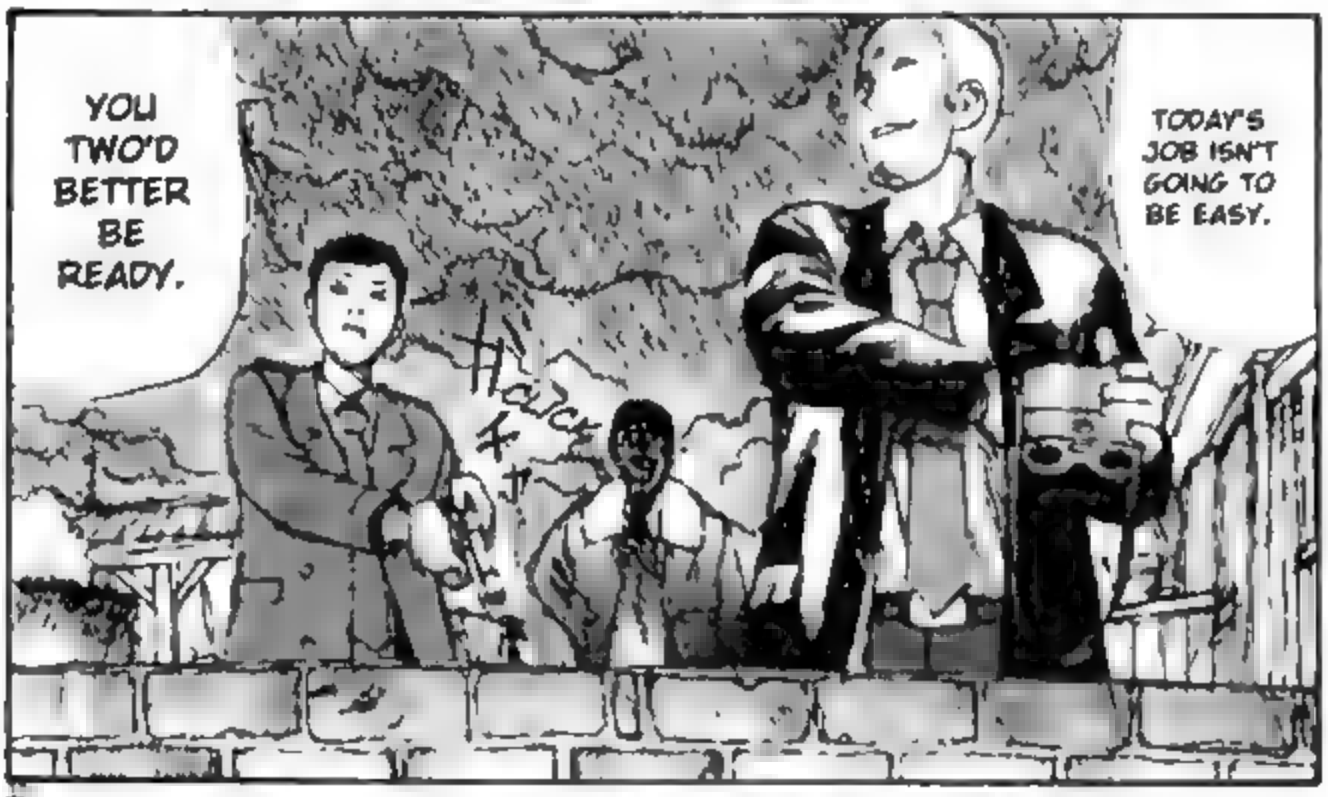
WHAT THE HELL!?
WH--
I CAN SEE YOU'RE JUST A PUPPY.
WELL, YOU CAN'T FOOL THEM ANY WAY.
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BLUFF YOUR WAY PAST THEM LIKE IN THE YAKUZA WORLD.
DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO INTIMIDATE THEM DURING THE ENFORCE-MENT.
H-- HEY, HIROGA WA...
I'LL FUCK-ING KILL YOU!
GRAB
JUST TRY IT, YOU BASTARD!
LET'S TAKE IT OUT-SIDE!
YOU!! YOU!!
WHERE ARE YOU, ANYWAY!?
FORGET HIM. THEY PROVIDED YOU WITH A GUN, RIGHT?
GET IT READY
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE...? IS IT HYP-NOSIS...?

THEY'RE PRETTY TOUGH. I DON'T EXPECT THEM TO MAKE ANY MISTAKES.
OUR OPPO-NENTS WON'T MISFIRE.
ROAR
I KNOW HOW TO USE IT
AH... YEAH.
MAYBE. BUT WE ONLY NEED TO BE CAREFUL OF ONE OF THEM. IF I CAN KILL HIM, WE'LL WIN.
WHOA!
THAT WAS CLOSE!
CAN WE WIN?
LOOK NERVOUS. WELL, THAT'S FINE. YOU'RE THE HONEST TYPE.
YOU ...
PUFF
FZZSH
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE MET SOMEONE LIKE HIM.
HE REACTED PER-FECTLY TO ME EARLIER

HE'LL FIND THAT CHINK IN YOUR ARMOR AND EXPLOIT IT.
YOU'D FOLLOW SOME TRIVIAL NOTION IN ORDER TO CONFORM WITH OTHER PEOPLE.
BUT IF YOU FOLLOW THAT NOTION, HE CAN'T BREAK THROUGH
IT'S JUST A LITTLE TRICK. TOO EASY.
DO WHAT I SAY. MY WILL IS ABSO-LUTE.
SO FOLLOW MY INSTRUC-TIONS.
DON'T LOOK AROUND. DON'T THINK. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU UNDER-STAND OR NOT.
EEK ...
WOOOOO
YOU HAVE TO GET AWAY FROM HIM.
30

AHH, NO.
GASP
GASP
IS SOME-THING WRONG ?
I'LL ...
TRUST YOU.
FZZSH
HE'S ...
A SMART ONE.





12:00pm. The Enforcement Begins

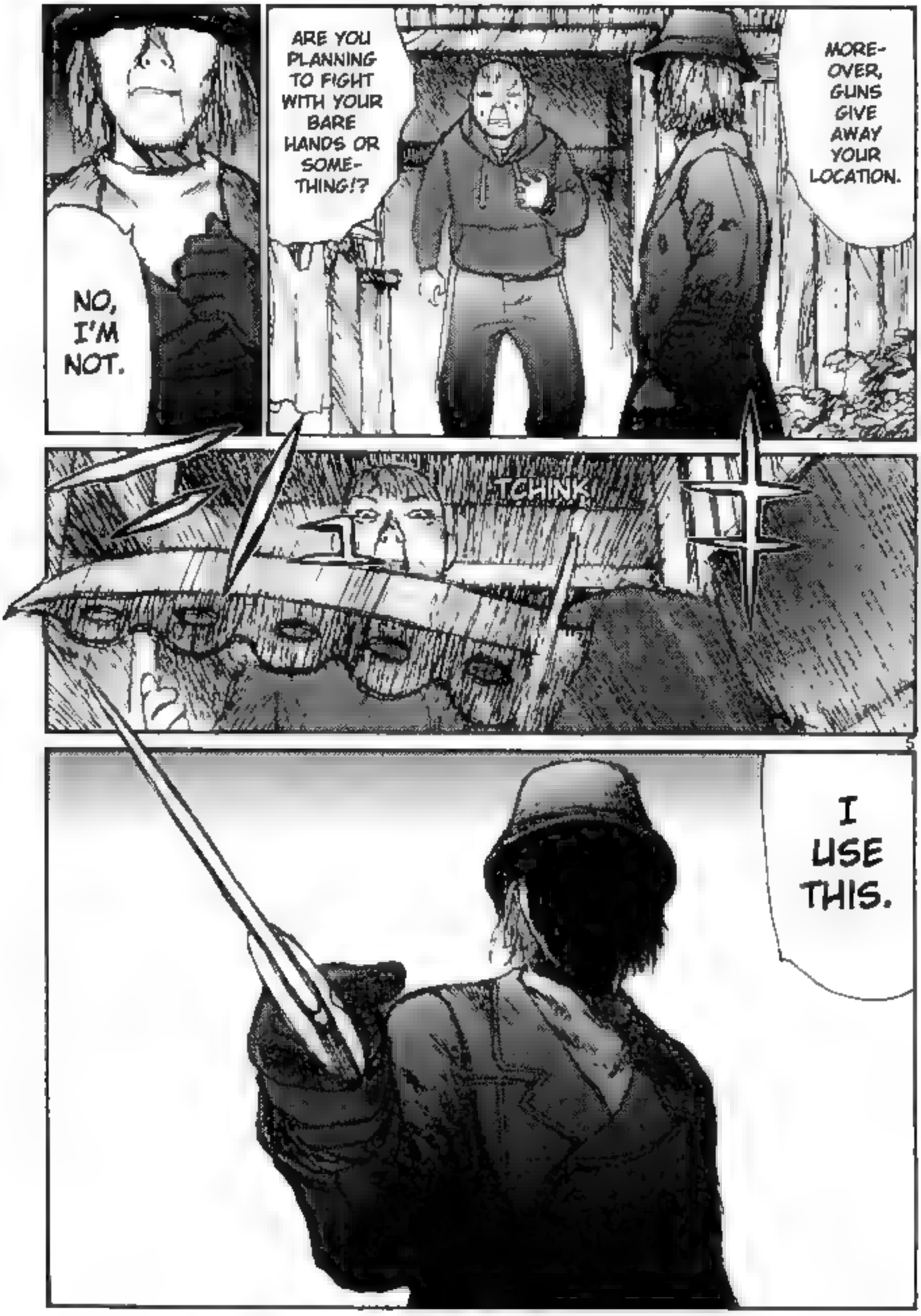
CHAT #10
108
(2)
GATSU, ZYPH, & ZZLED
HAWKS & OMANGA!

DO YOU HATE ME?
BRO ...
I'LL DO MY BEST FOR YOU. I'LL SHOW YOU I'M A MAN...
BUT I'M ALL RIGHT NOW...
THAT SORT OF...
I JUST FELL APART LIKE THAT.
HUH?
CLINK

I SHOULDN'T HAVE GOT YOU INVOLVED.
I'M SORRY.
TCHAK
WHEN I WATCHED 'GRAVE OF THE FIRE-FLIES' AND TODAY, JUST THOSE TWO TIMES...
I'VE ONLY CRIED TWICE SINCE BECOMING AN ADULT!
YEAH, I KNOW. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I REALLY HAVEN'T CRIED IN A LONG TIME.
... BRO.
ALL RIGHT... SHALL WE GO? HEH HEH HEH...
HMM! I GUESS AUTO-FLUSH TOILETS HAVE REACHED EVEN RURAL AREAS LIKE THIS NOWA-DAYS.
SPLUTTER GLUG GLUG GLUG GLUG

AND GO INTO THE HILLS. I'LL LEAD THE WAY.
WE'LL LEAVE HERE NOW ...
RUSTLE
THE HILLS ?
THEY CAN SEE OUR MOVEMENTS IF WE'RE IN HERE. BESIDES, I'M MORE USED TO BEING OUTDOORS.

I HATE THE SMELL OF GUN-POWDER.
HEY OLD MAN. AREN'T YOU BRINGING THE GUN ALONG?
CLUNK


NO, I'M NOT.
ARE YOU PLANNING TO FIGHT WITH YOUR BARE HANDS OR SOME-THING!?
MORE-OVER, GUNS GIVE AWAY YOUR LOCATION.
TCHINK
I USE THIS.

YOU STAY HERE.
HEY.
BUY US SOME TIME TO GET INTO THE HILLS.
FIGHT THE PROXIES IF THEY COME THIS WAY.
HUH ?
WOOOO
LET'S GO

THE TARGETS ARE SPLITTING INTO TWO GROUPS.
JUST WAIT HERE?
SO DO WE
I CAN SEE THAT. YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY IT OUT LOUD.
WHAT DO I DO?
SO THE PHANTOM WANTS TO HIDE IN THE HILLS
SHUT THE HELL UP.
BUT IF KANO SOMEHOW GETS BADLY HURT, I WANT THE CHANCE TO FINISH HIM OFF.
IT'LL BE BEST IF KANO AND THE PHANTOM SQUARE OFF BY THEM-SELVES...

ALL RIGHT.
HE'LL BE A PAIN IF I DON'T GET RID OF HIM.
AHH! I LOST THEM!
MORE-OVER, I HAVE TO GET YAMADA OUT OF THE WAY FIRST.
HIROGAWA'S OVER THERE IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE. TAKE CARE OF HIM BY YOUR-SELF.
EH ?
EH? EH?
HUH?
YAMADA, YOU'RE READY TO GO ON YOUR OWN.
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT TO TEACH YOU.
W-- W-- WAIT A MINUTE !
KANO AND I WILL GO AFTER THE PHANTOM AND THE TARGET.

I CAN'T DO IT!
MIZO-GUCHI-SEMPAI!
LET'S GO, KANO.
MOREOVER, THE PROXY REGULATIONS STATE THAT WE SHOULD DO THE JOB 'AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND WITH A MINIMUM OF CASUAL-TIES'...
WE SHOULD LEAVE HIROGAWA ALONE AND GO AFTER THE TARGET TOGETHER!
CLENCH CLENCH
THERE ARE ONLY THINGS THAT SEEM RELATIVELY RIGHT OR WRONG. NO ABSOLUTES.
THERE ISN'T AN ABSOLUTE RIGHT AND WRONG IN THIS WORLD.
LISTEN CLOSELY, YAMADA.
I'M SICK OF LISTEN-ING TO YOU...
YOU BLOODY SMART-ASS!

DOESN'T REVOLVE AROUND YOUR EXPEC-TATIONS
THIS WORLD ...
THUD
LET'S GO, KANO.
SO WHAT ARE YOU SAYING !?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND
S--

WHAT'S WRONG ?

CAW

TAKE A LOOK AT THE MAP.
HEH HEH. DO YOU KNOW WHY THE PHANTOM WENT INTO THE HILLS?

.. NOTHING

THE MILITARY BLOCK-ADE'S AT THE FAR EDGE OF THE HILL.
HE'S TRAPPED LIKE A RAT IN A SACK.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN ESCAPE WITH THAT IDIOT HE HAS WITH HIM.
IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S PRETEND-ING TO RUN AWAY IN ORDER TO LURE US IN.
IF WE CHARGE IN DIRECTLY, WE'LL FALL INTO HIS TRAP.
RUSTLE
SO WE'LL HAVE TO USE SOME TACTICS.
I'LL CIRCLE AROUND HIM AND COME FROM THE BACK.
WE'LL CATCH HIM IN A PINCER ATTACK.
RUSTLE
BE CAREFUL ...
THAT WE DON'T SHOOT EACH OTHER.

ANOOO
WOOOOO
I WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD THEM OFF WITH ONE PISTOL.
ON THE OTHER HAND, ALL 3 OF THEM MIGHT COME.
I DON'T THINK ANY-BODY'S GOING TO COME THIS WAY.
IT'S COLD.
SHIT ...
13
CLATTER

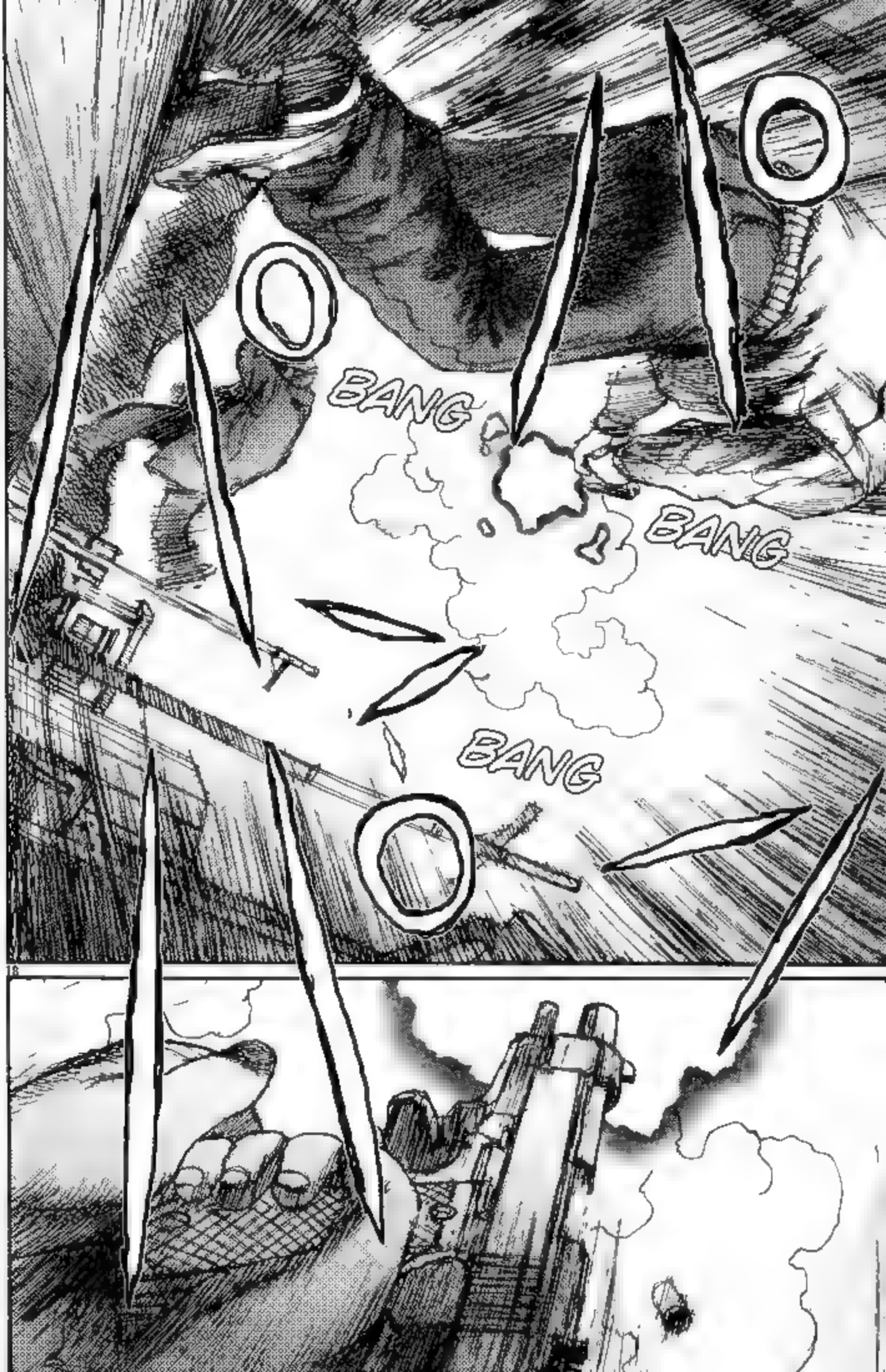
HEH HEH.
THE OLD MAN'S GUN IS BETTER ...
WOOOO
THE GUN THAT THE GOVERN-MENT PRO-VIDED IS KINDA LIGHT ...
CLICK
JUST LIKE 'ELEGY OF THE WOLVES'!
I'LL KILL THEM!
SHIT ...
I'LL AMBUSH THEM IN THE STREET.
WAIT... THEY'LL JUST SHOOT ME IF I'M STANDING HERE IN THE OPEN.

NOTE: AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, ELEGY OF THE WOLVES IS A HONG KONG ACTION MOVIE FROM THE LATE 80S.

WHEN NO ONE'S AROUND
IT'S PRETTY QUIET...
I SHOULD FINISH IT UP QUICKLY!
AAH, WHAT AM I DOING!? I SHOULDN'T STAND AROUND AND TALK!
BUT MY LEGS DON'T WANT TO MOVE..
REALLY GETS YOU DOWN.
BEING ALONE AT A TIME LIKE THIS..

!
NO, WAIT. WHY ARE THEY FOOT-STEPS? THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANYONE HERE.
THUD
FOOT-STEPS... THEY REALLY ECHO WHEN IT'S QUIET ...
THUD
THUD
THUD
I HAVE TO GET MY GUN OUT!
IT'S HIROG AWA!
NO, BUT IF IT'S NOT
THUD
NO, IT CAN'T BE THAT.
IF THERE'S SOME-ONE HERE.
I CAN'T UN-BUTTON IT...
SHOULDN'T THE SOL-DIERS HAVE MADE SURE THAT...
IS ONE OF THE VILLAG-ERS STILL AROUND ?
THUD

THUD
AHH!
HIRO-
GAWA
...


BANG
BANG
BANG

AHH?
HIRO-
GAWA
...
RUSTLE

THE BULLET
AMAZING I DODGED !
I DODGED !
DID IT
DID I HIT ?
HEY! WAIT !
UWAAAAAAAAHH!!

RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE
HA HA HA ...
HA HA HA HA ...
HAHA HAHA HA...
RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE
THIS IS GOING TO BE QUITE A SIGHT
HA ...
HAH ...
YOU'VE FALLEN INTO MY TRAP!
KANO, YOU BASTARD ... YOU'RE ALONE NOW!
IF THE PHANTOM DOESN'T GET YOU, I'LL STOP THAT TELEPHONE RINGING IN YOUR HEAD.
DON'T WORRY, KANO.

STRANGE .. I DON'T SENSE ANYONE HERE.
AND THE RINGING IS DISTURBING ME.
ASIDE FROM THAT, IT'S JUST TOO QUIET ..

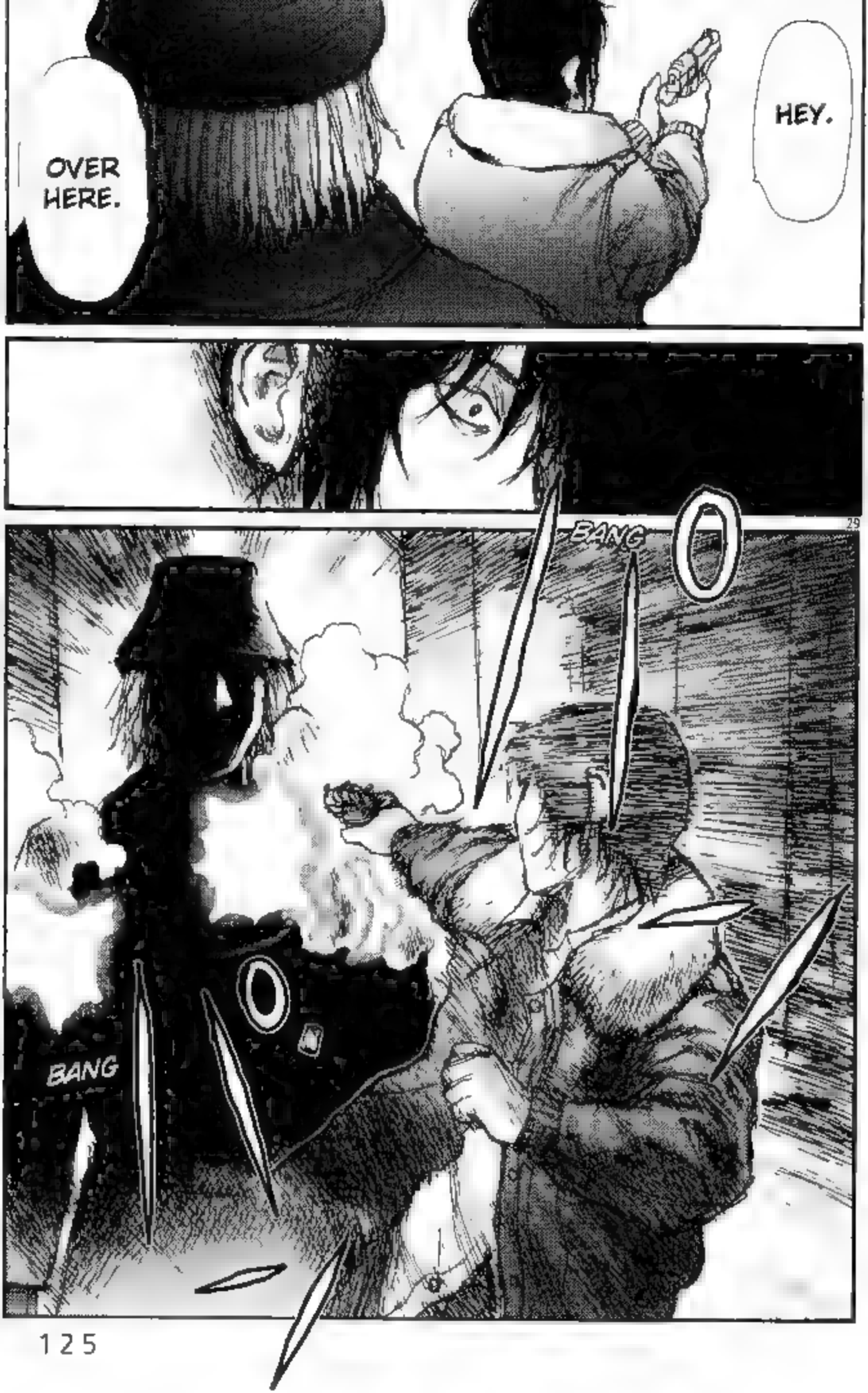
FOR SOME REASON, I FEEL LIKE I KNOW THIS PLACE.
IS THERE NO ONE HERE ...?
WHAT'S WITH THIS MIST?
MIST ...
THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE THE TRAIN-ING CAMP WE WENT TO.
THAT'S IT.
THE ONLY THING YOU CAN USE IS THE SPOON I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU.
WELL THEN, WE'RE GOING TO PRACTICE GUERILLA WARFARE NOW.

PIIIING
PIIIING
HMMM. WHAT WAS I DOING EARLIER, ANYWAY?
I CAN'T SEPARATE WHAT I'M SEEING FROM WHAT MY MEMORIES.
IS THE MIST ALSO PART OF MY MEMORIES?
BUT WHO WAS IT FOR...?
PIIIING
NO ...
THAT'S IT, VENGEANCE KILLING
PIIIING
YOU DEMON!
GET OUT OF HERE!
YOUR NAME IS...
PIIIING

RING

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
THUD
THUMP

CLICK
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
SWISH


OVER HERE.
HEY.
BANG
BANG

WHA
--

CHAT #11 WOUNDED ON THE JOB

CHAT #11

WOUNDED ON THE JOB

GATSU, ZYPH, ZZLED
HAWKS AND OMANGA

!
OH HO.
VERY NICELY DONE.

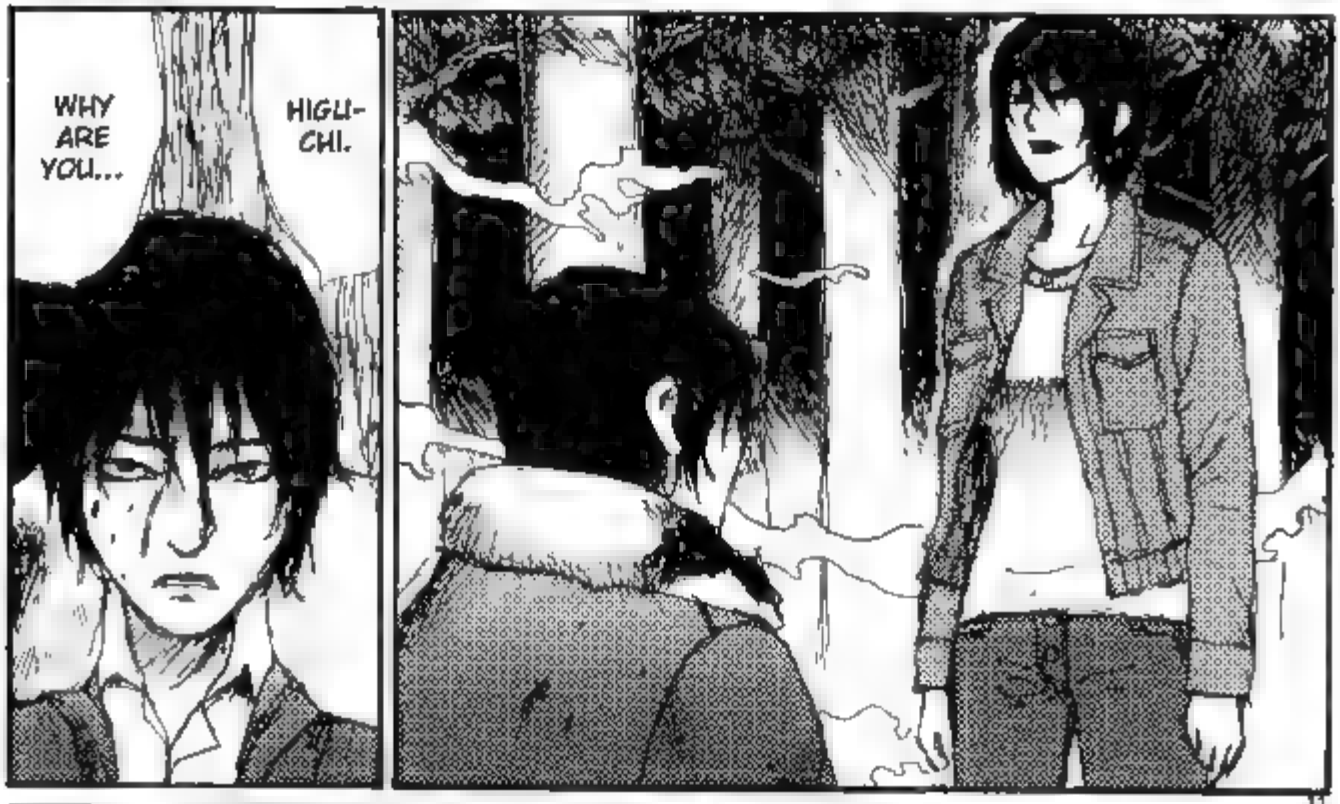
THUMP
RUSTLE

THUD
BANG
BANG

FSSSH

THUNK

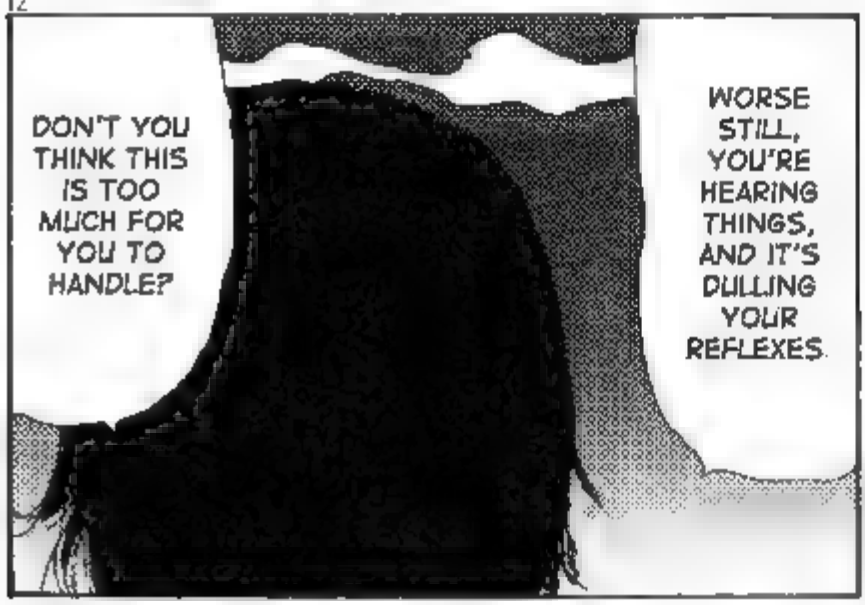
BANG
9


WHY ARE YOU...
HIGU-CHI.

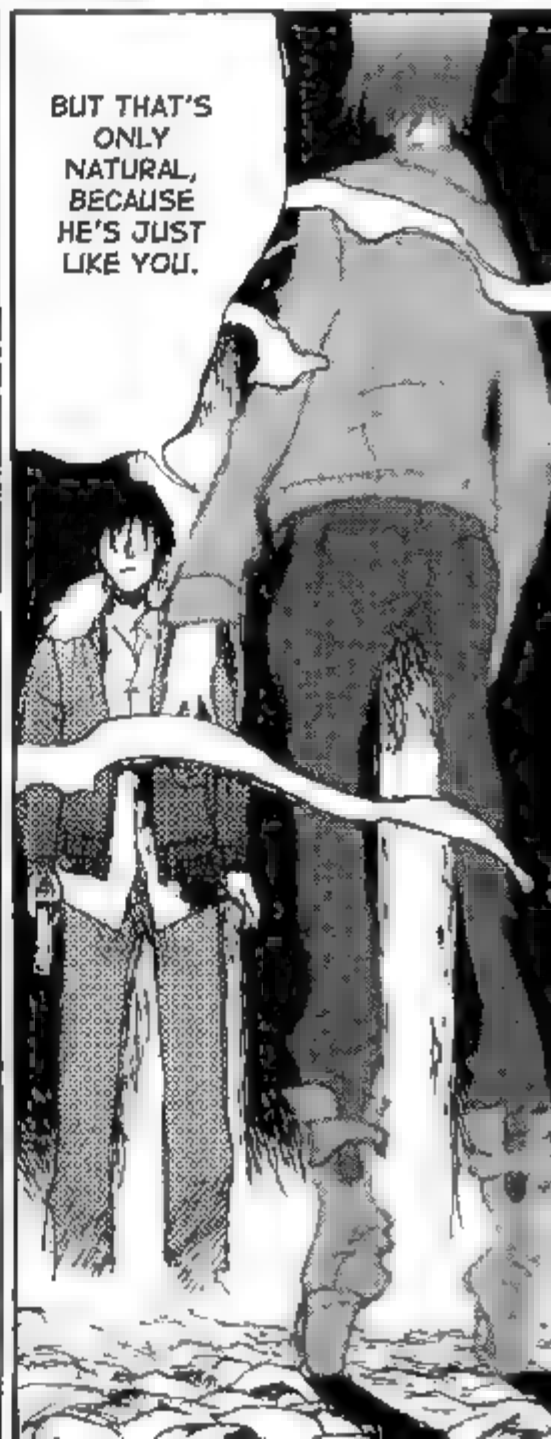
I THOUGHT YOU WERE HIGUCHI.
I'M A BIT OF A MESS RIGHT NOW.
IT'S YOU...
... YEAH.
DIDN'T I TELL YOU I DIDN'T HAVE A NAME?
HIGU CHI?

THAT OLD MAN'S PRETTY TOUGH
THE PHONE IS DISTURB-ING ME, AND I CAN'T SEE MY ENEMY
HARDLY LIKE YOU USUALLY ARE.
YOU DON'T SOUND GOOD AT ALL.

12


DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO HANDLE?
WORSE STILL, YOU'RE HEARING THINGS, AND IT'S DULLING YOUR REFLEXES.

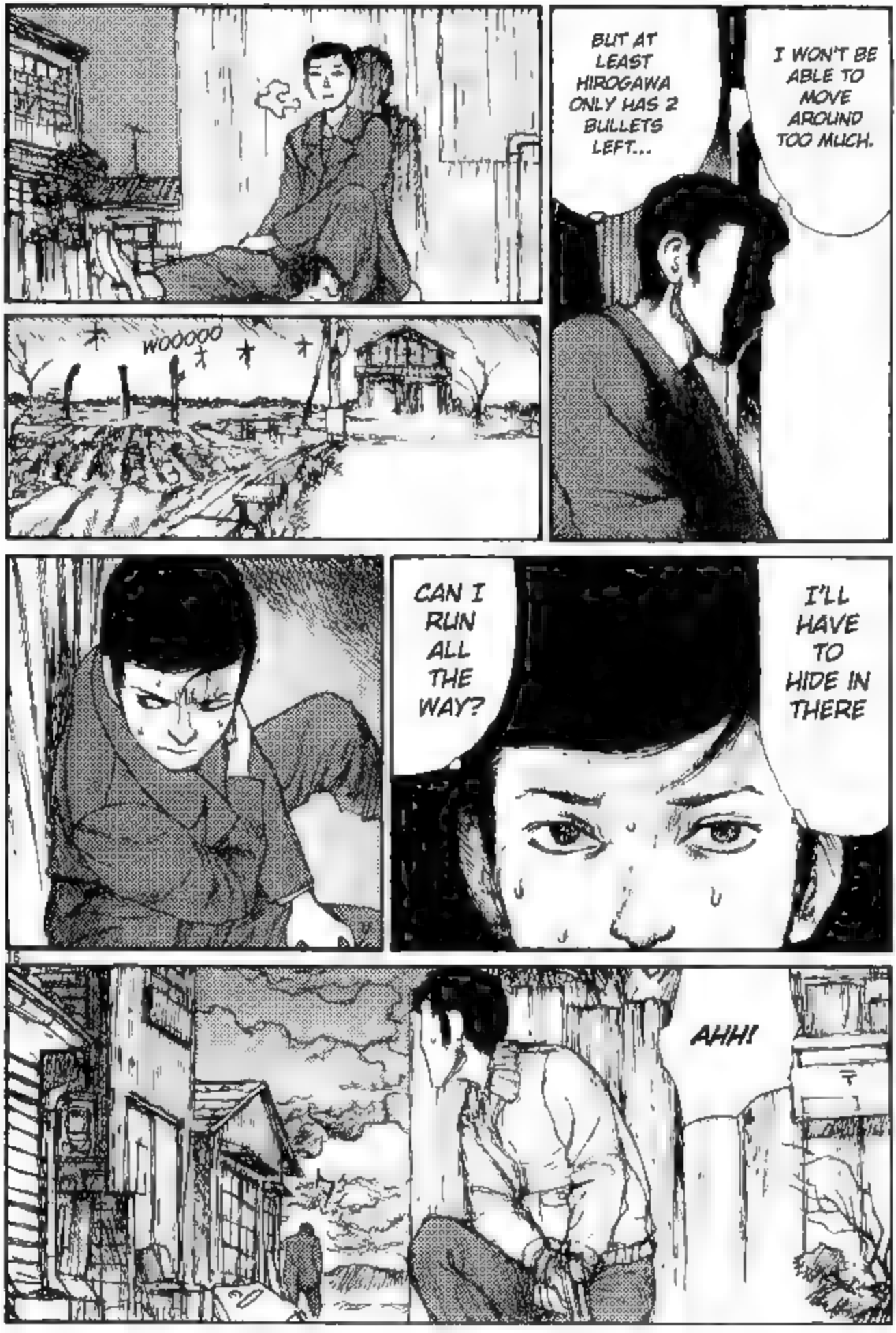
DON'T YOU GET IT?
SO MANY THINGS CONSPIRING ARE AGAINST YOU.


BUT THAT'S ONLY NATURAL, BECAUSE HE'S JUST LIKE YOU.

THAT WOMAN, HIGUCHI.
IT'S ALL PART OF HER TRAP.
SHE'S BEHIND ALL OF THIS.
STARE
THUD
BANG

I MISSED!
SHIT!
EEK!
EEK!
CRASH
TREMBLE TREMBLE
WHOA! WHOA! WHOA!
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

AHHHH!!
BANG
BANG
GEEZE ...
I CAN'T HIT HIM WITH MY HANDS SHAKING LIKE THIS!
WHAT SHOULD I DO!?
IT'S NO GOOD!
SHIT!!
I FEEL A BIT FAINT... IT'S ALL THE BLOOD I LOST.
THE BLEEDING'S PRETTY BAD, TOO. I HOPE IT DIDN'T HIT AN ARTERY...


BUT AT LEAST HIROGAWA ONLY HAS 2 BULLETS LEFT...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE AROUND TOO MUCH.
WOOOOO
CAN I RUN ALL THE WAY?
I'LL HAVE TO HIDE IN THERE
AHH!

HEY! WAIT!
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
I'LL KILL YOU!
AN AMATEUR LIKE YOU CAN'T HIT AT THIS DISTANCE!
GO AHEAD AND SHOOT! YOU'LL WASTE YOUR BULLETS, HIRO-GAWA!

SWISH
BANG
AHHH !!
JUST ONE MORE SHOT ...
HE'S CLOSE !
GAH!!
SPURT
THUD

THUMP
TRIP
CLATTER
CLICK
DIE
!!

Y-- YOU'RE OUT OF BULLETS.
HUH ?
WHAT'S WITH THIS?
CLICK
THERE'S NO POINT IN TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER, IS THERE?
I HAVE A GUN HERE.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE.
YOU'D BETTER SURREN-DER..
20
TOUA
CLANK

I'VE GOT ANOTHER GUN!
WHO THE HELL IS GOING TO SURREN-DER!?
KASUMI-CHAN..

MAKING A MISTAKE LIKE THIS...
WAS IT THAT KID'S INFLU-ENCE?
I LEFT THE GUN BEHIND BUT BROUGHT THE BULLETS ALONG.
NO WONDER I WAS SMELLING GUNPOW-DER.
HIS VERY PRESENCE IS THROWING ME OFF BALANCE
TOSS
WHY IS THERE SOMEONE JUST LIKE ME HERE?

I GIVE UP!
MY BAD!
WHAT ARE YOU --
EH!?

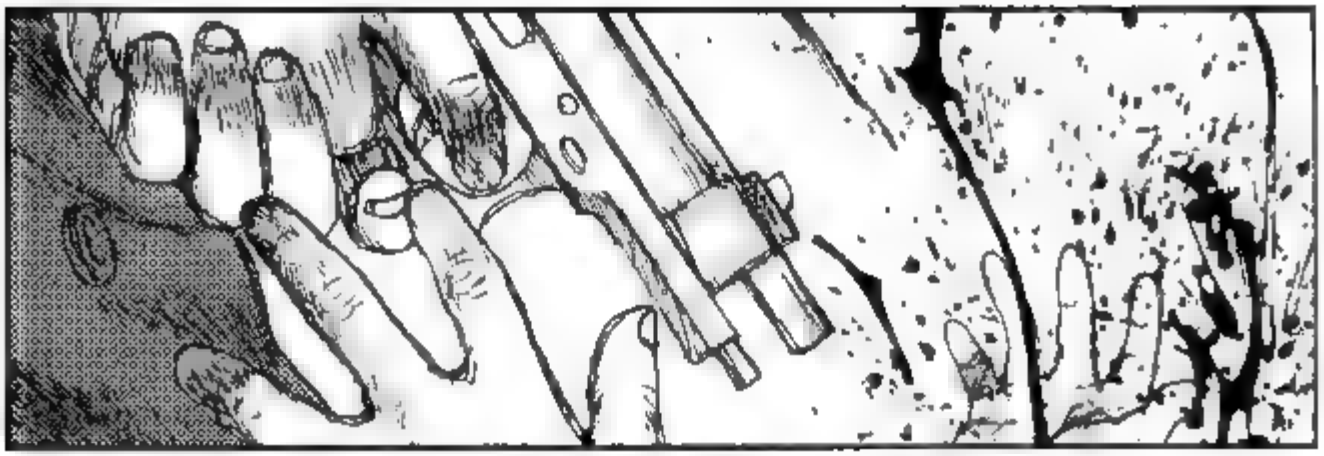
SPURT
SPURT
SPURT
SPURT

CRASH!

IT'S HER FAULT THAT YOU'VE BECOME SENTIMEN-TAL LIKE THIS.
HIGUCHI'S MESSING WITH YOU ON PURPOSE.
GRAB
AND IT DULLS THEIR SENSITIV-ITY.
PEOPLE RESPOND TO OTHER PEOPLE'S EMO-TIONS...
THINK ABOUT IT. IF YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT GUY, YOU MIGHT GO BACK BEING TO THE WAY YOU WERE.
BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD CHANCE.

HE'S JUST AN ASSASSIN TRYING TO FINISH ME OFF.
HE MIGHT NOT BE PART OF HIGUCHI'S TRAP.
COUGH
IT'LL BE OVER SOON ...
IT...
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TURN THE TABLES ON HIGUCHI THIS WAY.
WELL, THEN THIS IS A STROKE OF GOOD LUCK IF YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO DEFEAT HIM.

AHHHHHH!!
GRAB
WE'RE JUST LIKE TWO COCKS FIGHTING IN A CAGE.
SHE'S PROBABLY LOOKING ON WITH THOSE SAME COLD EYES THAT SHE HAD BACK WHEN THE BUILDING WAS BOMBED...
MUMMY--!!
BLAM



DON'T THINK ABOUT UNNEC-ESSARY THINGS.
ALL YOU NEED RIGHT NOW IS REASON AND PER-SPECTIVE.

UWAAHHH!!
EMO-TIONS WILL JUST GET IN THE WAY.

YOU SEEM TO HAVE CALMED DOWN A BIT.
WELL ?
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TALKED TO YOU ABOUT BEFORE...
... YEAH.
HUH...? OH YES.
WHEN I REALIZED WHAT I WAS CAPABLE OF?

I CAN'T SENSE HIM AT ALL.
... STRANGE ...
I'M SURE HE WAS RIGHT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREST.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE WITH ME?
WHY DO I HAVE THIS SPOON?
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN HERE?
I CAN'T REMEMBER.
ALL I KNOW IS THAT THIS PLACE MAKES ME FEEL TERRIBLE, AS IF I'M SUFFOCATING.

WORSE STILL, WHILE I WAS THERE...
PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK IN THE HILLS...
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
NOBODY CAME.

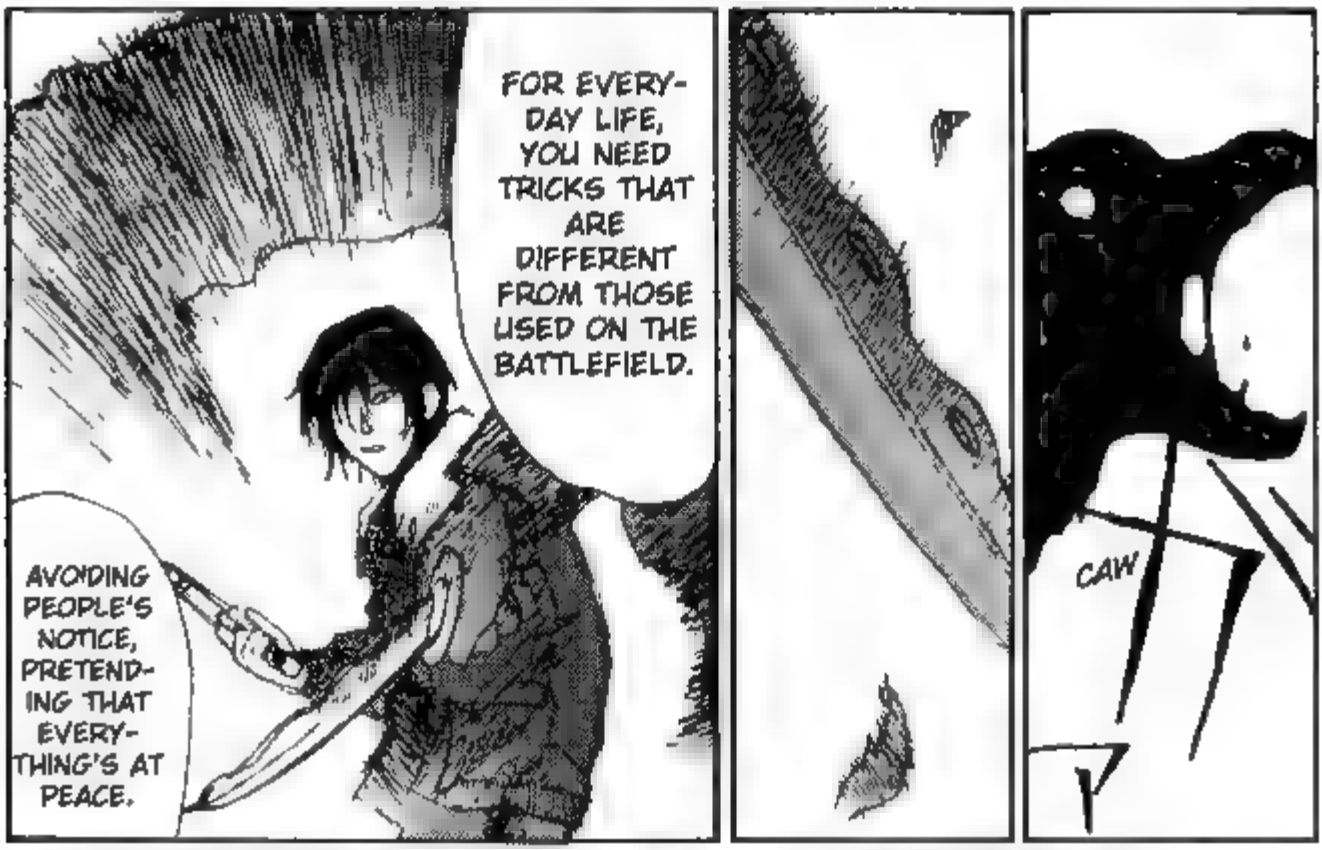
BUT SINCE I DIDN'T LIKE IT THERE, I DECIDED TO MOVE.
KOOOOOO

I SMELL BLOOD.
I SMELL GUN-POWDER.
HE'S RIGHT NEXT TO ME...
NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT.
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN ...?
HE DISAP-PEARED JUST LIKE THE FLICK OF A SWITCH.
A PERFECT CAMOU-FLAGE...
5

IT ISN'T OVER YET.
DON'T BE IMPA-TIENT.
IF I WERE THAT KID...
WHAT WOULD I DO?

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT CONSTANTLY WHILE WALKING ALONG.
WHY WAS I SO UNHAPPY THERE?
I CAN'T DO ANY-THING WITHOUT OTHER PEOPLE AROUND
THERE WASN'T ANYONE THERE.
PEOPLE.
?
THEREFORE, I INSTINC-TIVELY LOOK FOR PLACES WITH OTHER PEOPLE.
IT'S THE SAME FOR ME.
ZEBRAS SEPARATED FROM THE HERD BECOME TOTALLY LOST, DON'T THEY...?

SURVIVING THERE BEGAN TO GIVE ME A SENSE OF SATISFAC-TION.
IT WAS COMFORTABLE ON THE BATTLEFIELD. NOBODY NOTICED ME, AND I DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING. THE UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT OF THE BATTLEFIELD DOES THAT TO PEOPLE.
IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THAT, I HAD TO CREATE SIMILAR CIR-CUMSTANCES THAT WOULD KEEP MY NERVES SHARP...
THAT FEELING ...
PROOF THAT I WAS ALIVE.
IT WAS SUCH A PEACE-FUL FEELING ...


FOR EVERY-DAY LIFE, YOU NEED TRICKS THAT ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE USED ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
AVOIDING PEOPLE'S NOTICE, PRETEND-ING THAT EVERY-THING'S AT PEACE.
CAW

DECOYS

SWISH

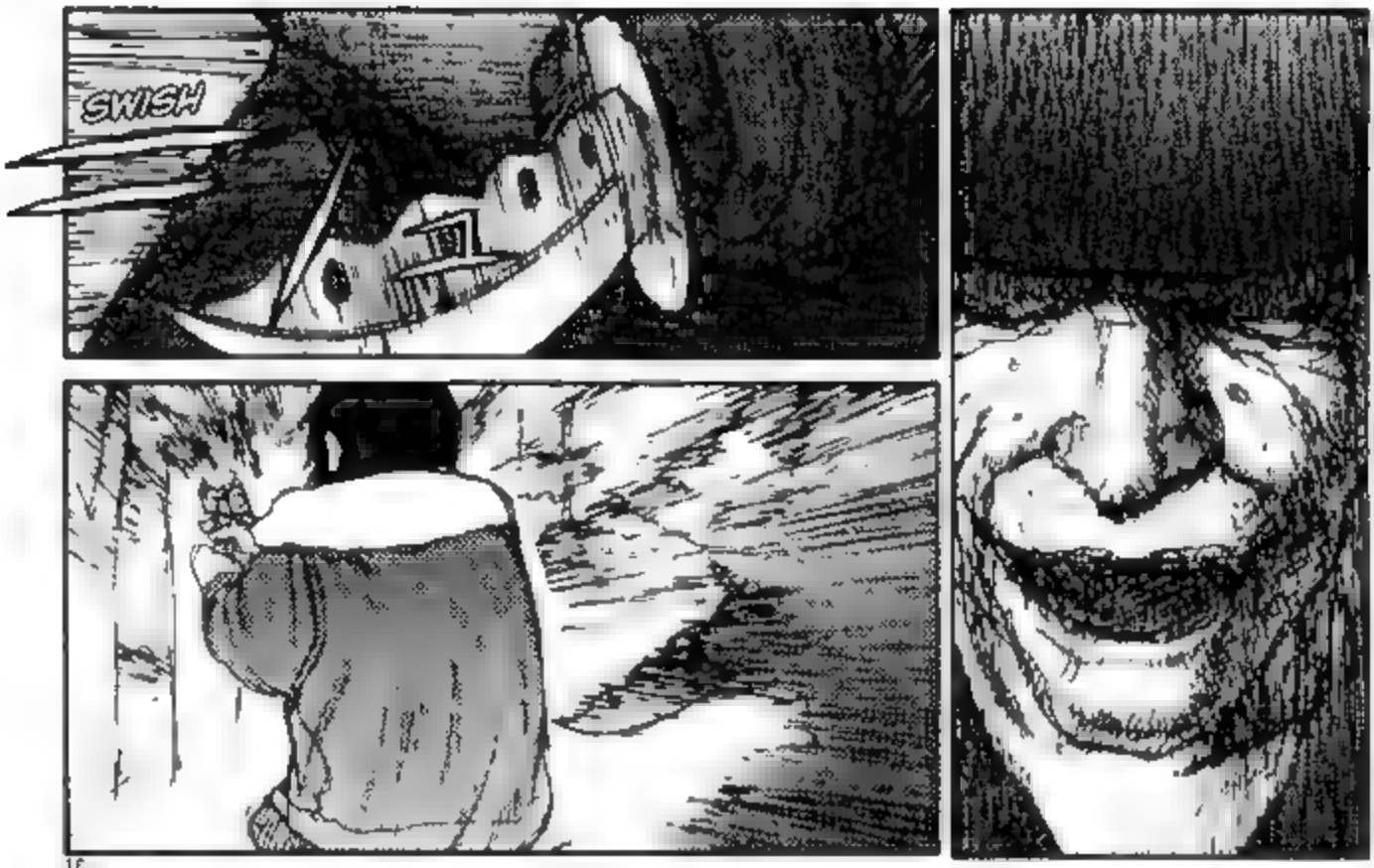
PUFF
THAT'S WHY I NEED A GIRL-FRIEND.
I'M JUST AN ORDI-NARY YOUNG MAN...
YOU'LL BE USING THIS FOR YOUR WORK.
RIGHT ?
I'M SURE YOU KNOW ABOUT THE VENGEANCE ACT THAT WAS PASSED TWO YEARS AGO...
AND WHY I HAD TO FIND A JOB.
BUT I REALLY NEED A PLACE TO STAY...
REALLY? IT'S ALL RIGHT? I KNOW WE'VE JUST MET...

CLUNK
HAVE IT ALL TOGETHER
I STILL ...
THAT WAS CLOSE ...

HE'LL GET ME.
IF I JUST CHARGE IN LIKE THIS...
IF TWO CREATURES SHARE THE SAME TERRITORY, THEY NATURALLY BECOME ENEMIES. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT.
I CAME HERE BECAUSE I NEVER THOUGHT I'D ENCOUNTER SOMEONE LIKE ME.
THERE ARE TOO MANY UNCERTAINTIES.
SO WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I'M JUST WORRIED THAT HE'LL CHANGE AGAIN.
WE'RE EVENLY MATCHED NOW.

I HAVE TO DO IT NOW!
IF I'M TO KILL HIM...
THUD

I'VE GOT YOU!


SWISH

BOOM

THUD
THUD
!!!
WOOOOO
THAT WAS ...
.....

CLICK
YOU ...
YOU'RE SHORTER ...
THAN I THOUGHT YOU'D BE.

SPLISH SPLISH SPLISH
THUMP
20
THUD
I SHOULD HAVE DIED BACK THERE.
WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOU?

THAT'S WHY YOU COULD HIDE SO PERFECTLY.
THERE'S SOMETHING ODD ABOUT THE WAY YOU SENSE THINGS.
I...
I DON'T KNOW.
HAS BEEN DISTURBING ME AND DRIVING MY SENSES CRAZY.
THIS WOMAN CALLED HIGUCHI ...
WHAT SORT OF EXCUSE IS THAT? THERE'S NO WAY THAT ANYONE COULD AFFECT YOU LIKE...
HIGUCHI ?
WOMAN !?

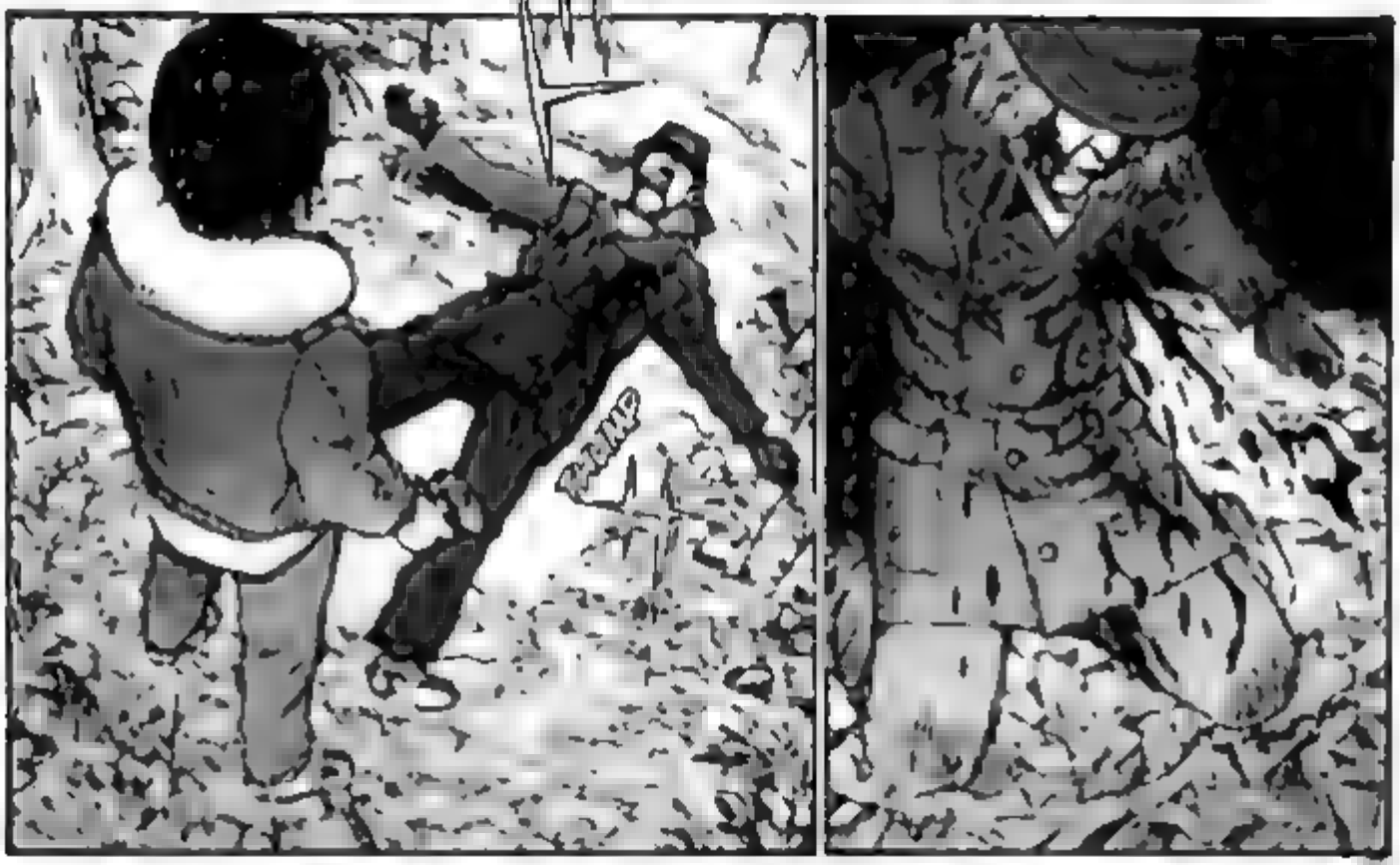
OF COURSE ...
.....
WAS IT THAT WOMAN ...?
HAHA HAHA ...
HA HA ...
HA...
SOMEONE ASIDE FROM YOU INVADED MY TERRI-TORY AS WELL!
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
SHE'S BEEN MESSING WITH MY MIND! I DIDN'T FORESEE THIS!

GRAB
YOUR REASON WILL COME CRUMBLING DOWN WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT, AND YOU'LL SCREAM IN DESPAIR JUST LIKE A BEAST!
YOU'RE GOING TO MEET THE SAME FATE AS I DID! DO YOU SEE THAT!?
23

THE SENSES I CAREFULLY HONED WERE BROKEN DOWN BY THAT NOISE!
LOOK AT ME!

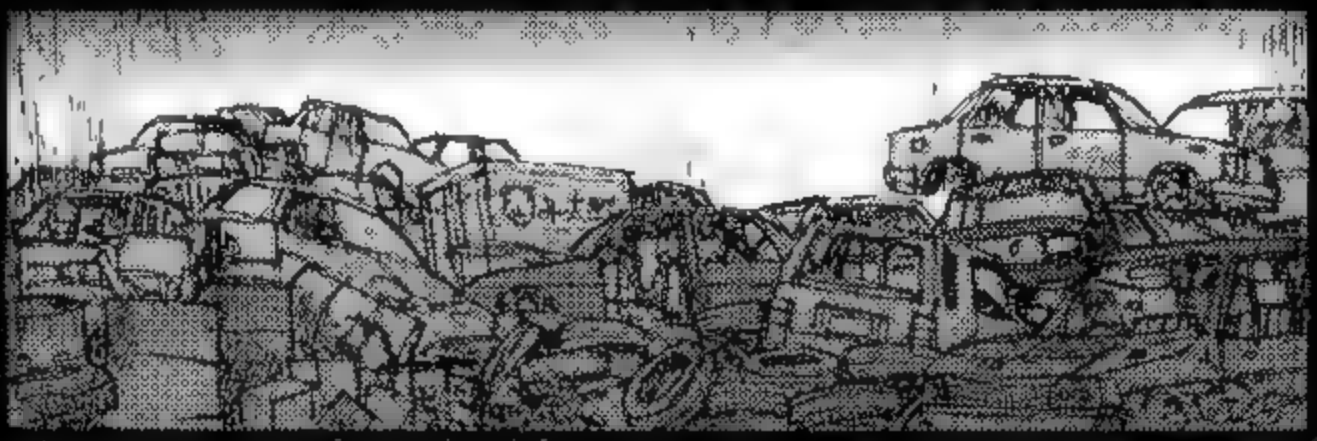
BUT I'VE GOT WORK TO DO.
I'M SORRY ...
YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO HESI-TATE! YOU HAVE TO...
SPURT

SPLATTER
SPLATTER


PUMP

IT'LL BE FAR MORE DIFFICULT AFTER NIGHT FALLS.
AND I SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THE TARGET BEFORE THE SUN SETS.
OUT OF BULLETS ...

CAW
CAW
GLINT
26
CAW
CAW
CAW



SHIT !
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? GIVE ME THAT.

JUST BURY HIM LIKE THAT.
HEY. HE'S STILL ALIVE.

DIE ... !!

WAHH
!
THAT WAS A HORRIBLE DREAM..
CAN'T BELIEVE I DOZED OFF FOR SO LONG.
HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN KILLED, RIGHT...?
WHERE THE HELL IS THAT OLD MAN? HE WENT OFF WANDERING BY HIMSELF ...

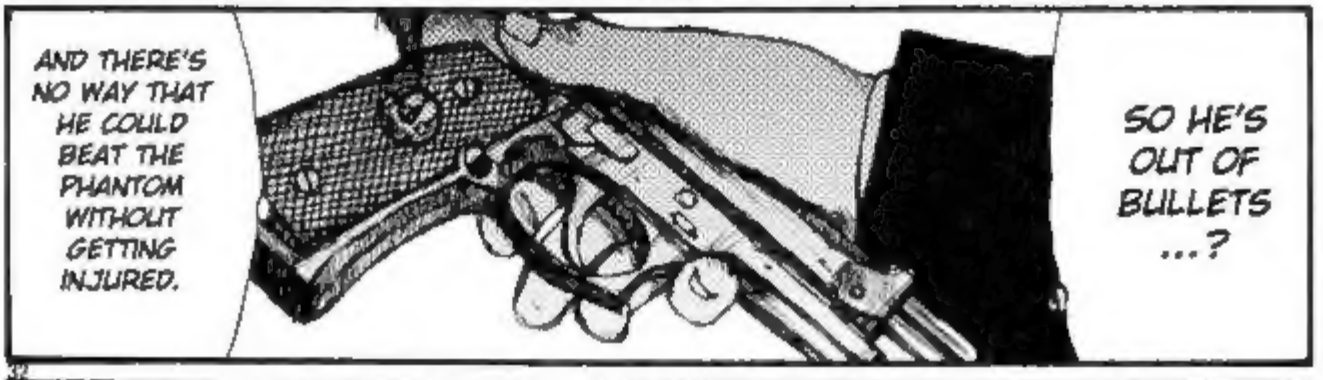
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I ONLY JUST REALIZED WHAT THEY WERE...
THE DANGER SIGNALS THAT WOMAN WAS GIVING OFF...
HOW DID THINGS TURN OUT LIKE THIS!?
SHIT!
CRACKLE
DAMMIT, I'M NOT GOING TO DIE!
AM I JUST GOING TO DIE HERE!?
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
OLD MAN?
.....
FZZSH

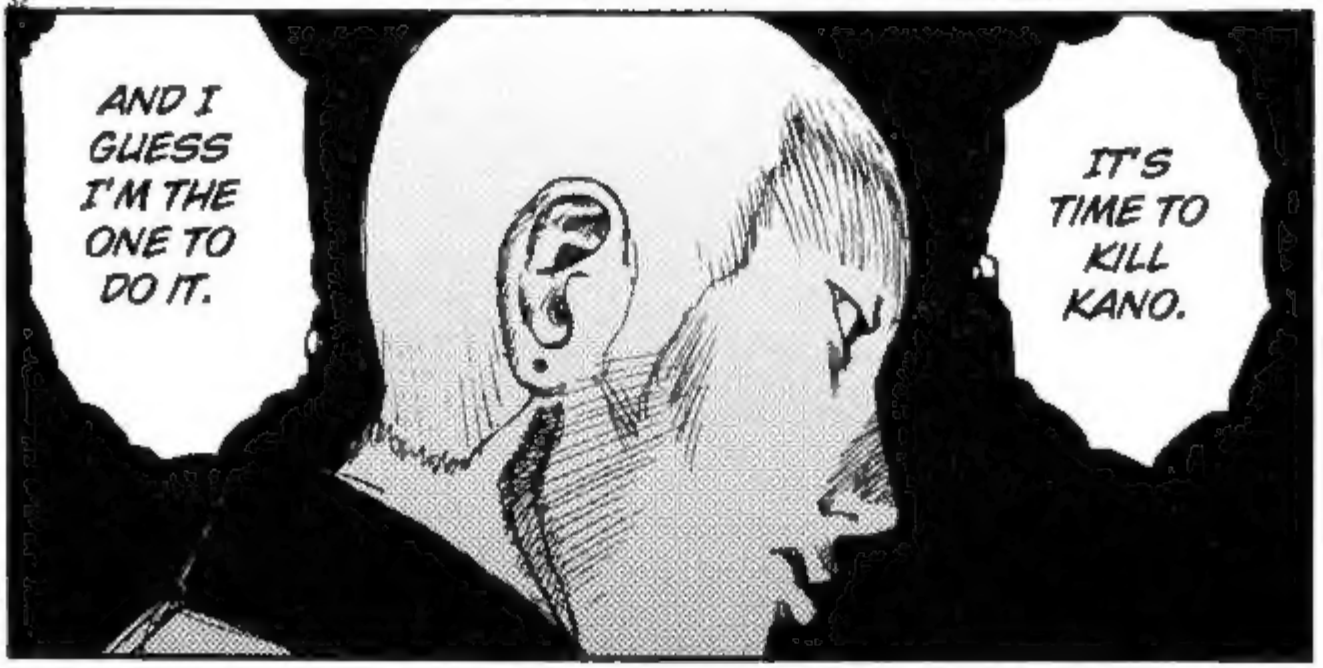
ANSWER M--
OLD MAN !!

CRACKLE

W--
WHO ARE YOU?
.....
...UHH...
UWAAH!!
UWAAH

FLASH


AND THERE'S NO WAY THAT HE COULD BEAT THE PHANTOM WITHOUT GETTING INJURED.
SO HE'S OUT OF BULLETS ...?


AND I GUESS I'M THE ONE TO DO IT.
IT'S TIME TO KILL KANO.

フリージア❷完